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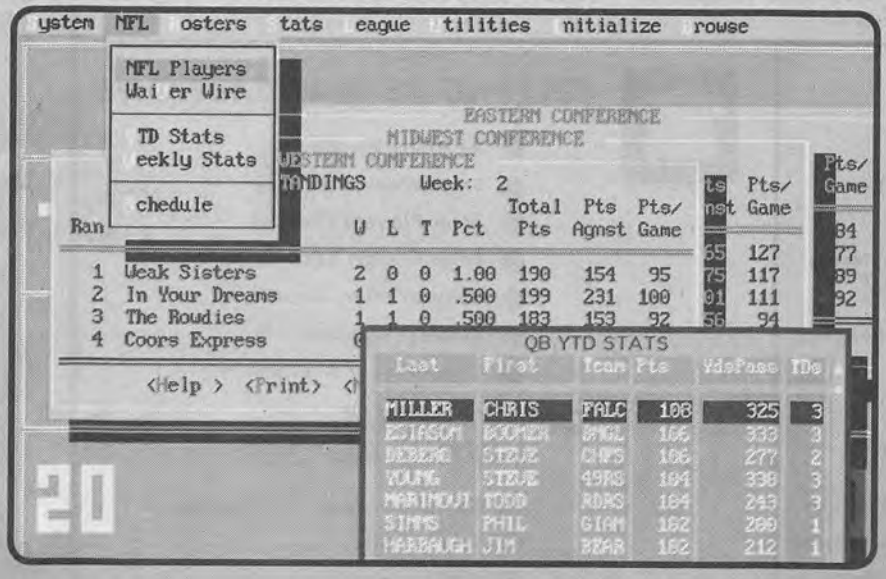

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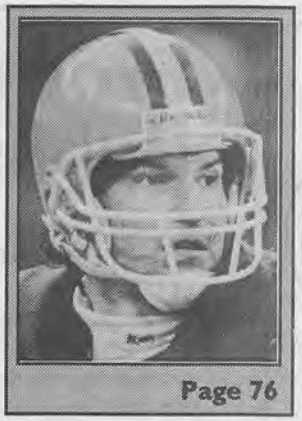
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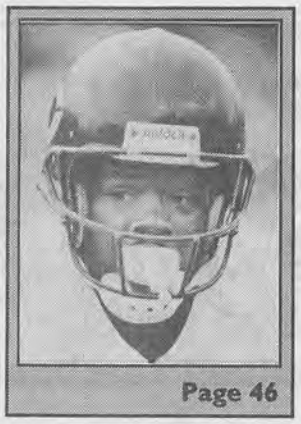
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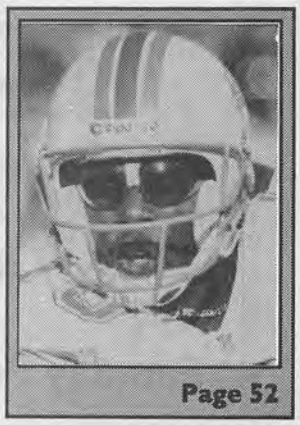
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From the Publisher's Desk

It truly was the Paup heard around the world.

I was in Tokyo when my buddy Chuck Riley burst into my hotel room in the Matsubara Skycourt. He was so excited, he violated Japanese custom by forgetting to take his shoes off. "Guess what happened in the Philadelphia game!"

After hoping against hope for 24 hours that Bryce Paup's hit on Randall Cunningham's left knee would only sideline the Eagle quarterback for a few weeks, the fantasy obituary moved on the wire: Cunningham was out for the season.

Sayonara, Krohn Bowl hopes.

I was left trying to salvage the season by making roster moves on the trans-Pacific waiver wire. (By the way, if you're ever in Tokyo, Nairobi, Melbourne or Moscow, feel free to utilize the world's toll-free fantasy phone service. Just tell the operator the names of the players you want to release and acquire, she'll do the rest. "I have a collect call from Randall Cunningham for Jeff Hostetler, will you accept the charges?" "Jeff's not in right now," your commissioner replies. Transaction complete).

I'm pleased to report that a month earlier in Tokyo, I had the chance to get the word straight from the top: fantasy football is okay. During a Raider-Dolphin mixed practice prior to their America Bowl game, NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue's right-hand man, Joe Browne, told me the only reason the league has been cautious to embrace fantasy football is because of the concern over possible gambling implications. As long as no money is involved, he said, the NFL has no problem with fantasy football.

"My son is in fantasy leagues," Brown said. "He plays in them at school with his friends." So ... does the NFL recommend giving points for 50-yard scores?

This year, we're proud to bring you our biggest, best issue ever. In our new 140-page format, we're able to give you more stories, more analysis, more photos. We've even got more covers — we printed six different regional covers this year. The only thing we don't have more of is columnist Luke Esser — he still just gets his one page.

We'd especially like to thank the 15 guest experts who made the first-ever Fantasy Football Top 25 Poll a reality. While we don't necessarily agree with all of the opinions expressed, we're pleased to be able to provide a variety of viewpoints.

We hope *Fantasy Football '92* helps you have a successful season. And while you're playing, please keep us in mind. We're already looking for ideas for our 1993 issue and would love to hear any interesting tales from your league.

In particular we're interested in creative team names, logos and helmet designs. We're going to use as many as we can in our 1993 issue, so please write. Don't worry if your logo or helmet design isn't perfectly drawn, because we've got a graphic artist who's one of the best in the business. Our plan is to let him produce all the best team logos and helmets in full color.

And if we use your suggestion, we'll send you a customized black-and-white version of one of the covers of our 1992 magazine. Our six covers this year feature Rodney Hampton, Jim Kelly, Mark Rypien, Barry Sanders, Emmitt Smith, and a split cover with Joe Montana and Randall Cunningham side-by-side. If one of those players is on your fantasy roster, just tell us your team name and we'll change the caption to read, for example, "Emmitt Smith of the Chicago Flood."

Have a good season.

—Ian Allan

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  - -Match up your team strengths versus opponent weaknesses.
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  - -Team winning and losing streaks, home records, division records, etc, etc.
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How to start your fantasy league

So you want to play fantasy football, but you don't know where to start. Here are the four easy steps to get your own league started:

• **Get some friends together.** The time to organize a league is in August, before the NFL's Sept. 6 openers. Ideally, you want a group of 8-to-14 "franchise owners." The owners meet for a couple hours before the season to draft the NFL's skill-position players onto their team rosters.

• **Appoint a commissioner.** Every league needs an organized commissioner — someone who can keep track of starting lineups and rosters, score games, arbitrate disputes and distribute weekly results to team owners. Without a good commissioner, your fantasy league is doomed.

• **Agree on rules.** A tediously strict set of rules is essential so owners don't get their feelings hurt when misunderstandings arise during the season. That's why we suggest you use the following rules as a basic framework for your league. Once at the draft, you can add amendments to tailor the rules to fit your own needs. The end result should be a season free of arguments.

• **Play the season.** Now, your season is underway. Each week, your team will be locked in combat with another franchise in your league. Each team owner submits starting lineups and the team whose players score the most points collects the win. Near the end of the NFL regular season, your league will begin its playoffs. Eventually, two surviving teams will meet in your league's fantasy championship game.

Casey Football League

Raymond Conference	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
y-Hutchinson Headhunters	8	2	0	.700	256	203
Calgary Ponys	5	5	0	.500	214	236
Tacoma Gnats	4	5	1	.450	222	267
King County Roughnecks	0	10	0	.000	113	288\
Wagner Conference	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct.**	**PF**	**PA**
Easter Island Tiki Gods	6	3	1	.650	230	201
Bellevue Jive-Mongers	5	5	0	.500	199	231
Hilliard Hackers	4	6	0	.500	225	212
Chicago Assassins	3	7	0	.300	182	209
Halseth Conference	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct.**	**PF**	**PA**
x-Parris Island Metal Jackets	10	0	0	1.000	310	187
Butte Holes	5	4	1	.550	266	203
Oregon Donors	5	5	0	.500	209	267
Wenatchee Generals	3	6	1	.350	187	275

x—clinched conference title.
y—clinched wildcard berth.

Week 10's Results	Week 11's Games
Parris Island 61, Wenatchee 35	Easter Island at Parris Island
Butte 37, Oregon 34	Butte at Bellevue (CBS-TV)
Hilliard 24, Easter Island 7	Hilliard at Oregon (NBC-TV)
Bellevue 28, Chicago 24	Wenatchee at Chicago
Hutchinson 20, King County 3	Calgary at Hutchinson
Tacoma 21, Calgary 20	King County at Tacoma (ESPN night game)

A fantasy league report should include standings and schedules.

THE 15 RULES OF FANTASY FOOTBALL

Rule No. 1. All fantasy franchise owners shall assemble at an agreed upon time and place for the annual 16-round draft.

Rule No. 2. The draft order shall be randomly determined, and the order shall be reversed for the eight even-numbered rounds. Each franchise owner shall select 16 players from the following categories: quarterbacks, running backs, wide receivers, tight ends, kickers and defense/special teams.

Rule No. 3. Each franchise owner shall submit a starting lineup of one quarterback, two running backs, two wide receivers, one tight end, one kicker and one defense/special team to the league commissioner prior to the kickoff of the first NFL game of the week (sometimes a Thursday or Saturday). If no lineup is submitted, it shall be assumed to be the same as the previous week's lineup.

Rule No. 4. Touchdowns shall be worth six points, touchdown passes worth four points, field goals worth three points, safeties worth two points and conversions worth one point. All scores from 50 or more yards shall be doubled in value.

Rule No. 5. The defense/special teams "player," unlike the field players, is an entire NFL team. It scores whenever any player on that NFL team returns a kickoff, punt, interception, opponents' fumble or blocked punt for a touchdown. The defense/special teams player also scores on safeties and fake punts and fake field goals.

Rule No. 6. Franchise owners may place a player on the league's injured reserve list if he is on the NFL's injured reserve or inactive list, or if he is listed as "Doubtful" or "Out" on the NFL's weekly injury report. Once a player has been activated by his NFL team or no longer appears on the NFL's weekly injury report, he must leave the FFL injured reserve list.

Rule No. 7. If a player isn't on a fantasy team, he is considered to be a free agent available on the waiver wire. Franchise owners may obtain any player off the waiver wire by notifying the league commissioner. For each player obtained via waivers, a player must be released or placed on the injured reserve list. All franchise owners must be informed a player has been waived before any team can acquire the player, and if more than one franchise expresses interest in signing the player, he will be assigned to a team by coin flip or other random method.

Rule No. 8. If two or more franchise owners wish to trade players, they may do so by contacting the league commissioner. No trades shall be permitted for the rest of the season after the kickoff of the first NFL game on Nov. 8 (week 10).

Rule No. 9. Any trade or consolidating of teams may be vetoed by the league commissioner or a simple majority vote of the owners. The commissioner's veto may be overturned by a majority vote.

Rule No. 10. The schedule and conference/division alignments shall be prepared by the league commissioner. Depending on league size, the teams shall play a 14- or 15-week regular season, with the final two or three weeks of the NFL season reserved for a single-elimination playoff tournament for the teams finishing with the best regular season records.

Rule No. 11. The following is the tiebreaking scheme should two or more teams have identical records at the end of the season, ties within divisions and conferences shall be broken first:

1) Record against other teams in the tie.
2) Total points scored.
3) Total point difference.
4) Total points scored against other teams in the tie.
5) Point difference in games against other teams in the tie.
6) Team with higher draft number advances (one is high).

Rule No. 12. Game ties stand in the regular season, and count as half a win and half a loss in the standings. For playoff games, coaches submit "Sudden Death" orders of their eight non-starters, and should the teams tie, the overtime players are compared against each other one at a time. The next tiebreaker is total offensive yardage of the six starting field players, then total distance of all scores. If the tie still stands, the home team advances.

Rule No. 13. The league commissioner shall prepare reports weekly and distribute them in a timely manner to all franchise owners.

Rule No. 14. Teams shall be located in major U.S. cities, and have plausible mascots. Team names must be approved by a majority vote of franchise owners.

Rule No. 15. Articles may be revised or added, but only during the offseason and only with a two-thirds majority approval of franchise owners.

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How To Schedule Your Fantasy League

	EIGHT TEAMS No divisions	TEN TEAMS Two divisions (A, B)	TWELVE TEAMS Three divisions (A, B, C)	FOURTEEN TEAMS Three divisions (A, B, C)
Week 1 **Sept. 6-7**	1 at 5 • 3 at 7 2 at 6 • 4 at 8	A1 at A2 • A3 at A4 B1 at B2 • B4 at B3 A5 at B5	A1 at B3 • B1 at C3 C1 at A3 • A2 at B4 B2 at C4 • C2 at A4	A1 at A2 • B1 at B2 C1 at C2 • A3 at A5 A4 at B4 • B3 at C4 • C3 at C5
Week 2 **Sept. 13-14**	6 at 1 • 8 at 3 5 at 2 • 7 at 4	A4 at A1 • A2 at A5 B1 at B4 • B5 at B2 B3 at A3	C4 at A2 • A3 at B1 A4 at B2 • B3 at C1 B4 at C2 • C3 at A1	A1 at A3 • C1 at C3 C2 at B1 • A2 at B2 B3 at B4 • A5 at A4 • C5 at C4
Week 3 **Sept. 20-21**	1 at 7 • 3 at 5 2 at 8 • 4 at 6	A3 at A2 • A4 at A5 B2 at B3 • B5 at B4 A1 at B1	C2 at B2 • B3 at A3 C3 at A4 • C4 at B4 B1 at A1 • C1 at A2	C4 at A1 • A2 at A3 B1 at A4 • B2 at B3 A5 at C5 • C2 at C3 • B4 at C1
Week 4 **Sept. 27-28**	8 at 1 • 6 at 3 7 at 2 • 5 at 4	B4 at A1 • A3 at B1 B5 at A2 • A4 at B2 A5 at B3	C1 at C4 • C2 at C3 B1 at B4 • B2 at B3 A1 at A4 • A2 at A3	A4 at A1 • A2 at A5 A3 at B2 • B4 at B1 B3 at C3 • C4 at C1 • C2 at C5
Week 5 **Oct. 4-5**	1 at 3 • 5 at 7 2 at 4 • 6 at 8	A2 at A1 • A5 at A3 B2 at B1 • B3 at B5 B4 at A4	A3 at A1 • A4 at A2 B3 at B1 • B4 at B2 C3 at C1 • C4 at C2	A1 at A5 • A2 at C2 C3 at A3 • A4 at C4 B1 at B3 • B2 at B4 • C5 at C1
Week 6 **Oct. 11-12**	4 at 1 • 8 at 5 3 at 2 • 7 at 6	A1 at A5 • A4 at A3 B1 at B5 • B3 at B4 B2 at A2	A1 at C2 • A2 at B1 B2 at C1 • A3 at C4 A4 at B3 • B4 at C3	A1 at B1 • A4 at A2 A3 at B4 • A5 at C3 C1 at B2 • C4 at C2 • C5 at B3
Week 7 **Oct. 15-19**	1 at 2 • 5 at 6 3 at 4 • 7 at 8	B5 at A1 • A3 at B2 B1 at A2 • A4 at B3 B4 at A5	A2 at B3 • A3 at C2 C1 at A4 • C3 at B2 B4 at A1 • C4 at B1	C1 at A1 • B3 at A2 A3 at A4 • B1 at A5 B2 at C5 • C2 at B4 • C3 at C4
Week 8 **Oct. 25-26**	5 at 1 • 7 at 3 6 at 2 • 8 at 4	A1 at A4 • A2 at A3 B4 at B1 • B3 at B2 B5 at A5	C3 at C4 • C1 at C2 B3 at B4 • B1 at B2 A3 at A4 • A1 at A2	A2 at A1 • A5 at A3 A4 at B3 • B2 at B1 B4 at C4 • C2 at C1 • C5 at C3
Week 9 **Nov. 1-2**	1 at 6 • 3 at 8 2 at 5 • 4 at 7	A3 at A1 • A5 at A2 B1 at B3 • B2 at B5 A4 at B4	A1 at C1 • B2 at A2 C2 at B1 • A3 at C3 A4 at B4 • B3 at C4	A3 at A1 • A4 at A5 A2 at B1 • B2 at C2 B4 at B3 • C3 at C1 • C4 at C5
Week 10 **Nov. 8-9**	7 at 1 • 5 at 3 8 at 2 • 6 at 4	A5 at A1 • A2 at A4 B5 at B1 • B4 at B2 A3 at B3	B2 at A3 • C1 at B4 C2 at B3 • C4 at A1 C3 at A2 • B1 at A4	A1 at B4 • A3 at A2 C5 at A4 • C1 at A5 C4 at B1 • B3 at B2 • C3 at C2
Week 11 **Nov. 15-16**	1 at 8 • 3 at 6 2 at 7 • 4 at 5	B3 at A1 • B5 at A3 B4 at A2 • B1 at A4 B2 at A5	B4 at B1 • B3 at B2 A4 at A1 • A3 at A2 C4 at C1 • C3 at C2	A1 at A4 • A5 at A2 A3 at B3 • B1 at B4 C3 at B2 • C1 at C4 • C5 at C2
Week 12 **Nov. 22-23**	3 at 1 • 7 at 5 4 at 2 • 8 at 6	A1 at B2 • A3 at B4 A2 at B3 • A4 at B5 B1 at A5	A1 at A3 • A2 at A4 B1 at B3 • B2 at B4 C1 at C3 • C2 at C4	A5 at A1 • C3 at A2 C4 at A3 • C2 at A4 B3 at B1 • B4 at B2 • C1 at C5
Week 13 **Nov. 26-30**	1 at 4 • 5 at 8 2 at 3 • 6 at 7	A1 at A3 • A5 at A4 B3 at B1 • B4 at B5 A2 at B2	A1 at B2 • A2 at C2 B1 at C1 • B4 at A3 B3 at C3 • A4 at C4	B2 at A1 • A2 at A4 C5 at A3 • B1 at C1 A5 at B3 • B4 at C3 • C2 at C4
Week 14 **Dec. 3-7**	2 at 1 • 6 at 5 4 at 3 • 8 at 7	A4 at A2 • A3 at A5 B2 at B4 • B5 at B3 B1 at A1	A2 at A1 • A4 at A3 C2 at C1 • C4 at C3 B2 at B1 • B4 at B3	A1 at C2 • B4 at A2 A4 at A3 • B2 at A5 B3 at C1 • B1 at C5 • C4 at C3
Week 15 **Dec. 12-14**	(optional week) 2 at 6 • 4 at 8 1 at 5 • 3 at 7	A1 at B5 • A2 at B1 B2 at A3 • B3 at A4 A5 at B4	**Playoffs** Wildcard No. 2 at Wildcard No. 1	**Playoffs** Three wildcards and No. 3 division champ
Week 16 **Dec. 19-21**	**Playoffs** 4th at 1st 3rd at 2nd	**Playoffs** Semifinals, with 2 division champs hosting 2 wildcards	Semifinals, with wildcard playing at division champ with best record	Week 15 winners at top 2 division champs (matchups based on league records)
Week 17 **Dec. 26-28**	**Championship**	**Championship**	**Championship**	**Championship**

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Rules to Live By

We've heard from literally hundreds of leagues around the country during the last five years, but we don't think we've heard from any two leagues yet that use exactly the same rules.

Why not? Probably because only the *concept* of fantasy football has spread like wildfire. People are constantly hearing about fantasy football and deciding to start leagues, but there is no "official" set of rules, so each commissioner makes up his own.

Some leagues draft tight ends. Some keep players over seasons. Some award points for yards. Some play head-to-head schedules, others just keep track of total points.

Who's to say which way is best?

"There is no 'right' way to play this game," says Jack Pullman, a California-based publisher who writes the *All Pro Yearbook*, a fantasy drafting guide. "There is no 'FFBI' — Fantasy Football Bureau of Investigation — that will come to your house and arrest you for breaking any fantasy football 'laws.'"

The following is a list of ideas and suggestions for commissioners pondering how their league should be governed. But of course, these rules — like all fantasy rules — aren't etched in stone. Each league will have to decide for itself which rules best fit its needs.

DEFENSES

The widest area of variance in fantasy rulebooks across the country is on the defensive side of the football. Do you ignore defenses? Draft entire NFL teams? Or select individual defensive players?

• Team defenses, as they're rated in this magazine, score on interception, fumble and kick returns, as well as fake kicks and safeties. Many leagues are now also awarding points for takeaways and sacks. Others give points for shutouts and holding opponents under 200 yards passing or 100 yards rushing.

• Drafting individual players seems to be the growing trend. The trend seems to be to draft two defensive linemen, two linebackers and two cornerbacks or safeties. Players score on interception or fumble returns, and also get points for interceptions, tackles, sacks.

Such statistics used to be impossible to obtain. Now they are printed each week in the standard *USA Today* box score, right below the receiving stats. But who do you draft? A flashy cornerback like Deion Sanders or Tim McKyer who'll intercept a lot of passes? Or a safety like Steve Atwater who'll pile up a bunch of tackles?

Individual defensive players add to the work load of league commissioners, so if you're contemplating using them, you may want to hire a company to run your league.

Says Jeff Barton of Scoresheet Sports in Berkeley, Calif.: "If you're going to use a service like ours, why not have defensive players? Why not have it complicated? You're not doing the work."

Barton says using defensive players adds whole new levels of strategy. Fantasy football with touchdowns and field goals as the only means of scoring, he says, are almost childishly simple. "Everyone knows that Jerry Rice is the best receiver, but not everyone knows who the best linebackers are" Barton says. "Drafting individual defensive players really differentiates between the complete team and the team that just has one or two hot guys."

KEEPER LEAGUES

A growing trend across the country are keeper leagues, where teams maintain the rights to players permanently. Some questions to consider when setting up such a league:

• Who gets the initial first draft pick? If you hold a lottery, many coaches will never get a chance to draft a player they really want on their franchise. We suggest an auction, with the highest bidder getting to

Scoring systems at a glance

The player ratings in this magazine are based on the scoring system of six points for touchdowns, four for touchdown passes, three for field goals, two for safeties and one for extra points, with scores from 50 or more yards doubled in value. Some other scoring systems that leagues around the country are using:

Basic Scoring System. Players get six points for touchdowns, three for TD passes or field goals, and one for extra points. No bonus points for 50-yard scores.

Distance Scoring System. Scores are judged on a sliding scale of 10-yard increments. Touchdowns and field goals are worth one point plus an additional point for each additional 10 yards they cover. (For example, a 35-yard run or 35-yard field goal is worth four points). Touchdown passes are slightly downgraded, with no bonus point for the first additional 10 yards (a 35-yard TD pass is worth two points).

An alternative distance scoring system gives three points for touchdowns or TD passes under 10 yards, six for scores in the 10-29 yard range, nine for scores in 30-49 yard range and 12 for scores over 50. Field goals are worth three points inside 30 yards, six from 30-49 and nine from 50-plus.

Yardage Scoring System. Points are not awarded for touchdowns, but merely for yards. Players get one point for every 20 yards passing and one point for every 10 yards rushing or receiving. Field goals are worth three points and extra points worth one point.

ILLUSTRATION BY LES CAMPBELL

choose first. That way, no team owners can say they didn't get a chance to draft their favorite player. In subsequent years, of course, the team with the worst record gets to choose first.

• How do you handle welchers? Commissioners need to be able to deal with team owners who bail on the league after finishing with a 2-12 record — especially if they've traded away future draft picks. We recommend requiring all coaches to pay all league fees a year in advance (so, if you're setting up a league, each team would pay its 1992 and 1993 fees on draft day). That way, if a coach wants out of the league, he has to sell the franchise to try and recoup his lost entry fee.

• Do you keep some players or all players? Some leagues around the country allow teams to only keep two or three players, while others use Plan B systems with a third of the roster exposed to bidding by other franchises. Another option requires players to re-enter the draft every three years (that way, it's harder for a team to dominate for years).

• How do you handle coaches who throw games? In keeper leagues, coaches mathematically eliminated from playoff consideration may try to intentionally lose games to secure a better draft position. There are a couple of ways to discourage this behavior. One option is to imitate the NBA, and have a lottery among all non-playoff teams determine the draft order. Another deterrent is to substantially fine the teams finishing with the worst records — require them to treat the entire league to dinner prior to the following year's draft.

COLLEGE FANTASY FOOTBALL

Talk about a great combination. The pageantry and tradition of college football meets the country's fastest-growing sports pastime. For the first time in the six-year history of this magazine, we're even seeing an advertisment offering to manage college leagues.

The college version of fantasy football is probably better suited to keeper leagues than the pros because the players don't stick around as long. Now that underclassmen have been given the green light to enter the NFL draft, you just don't see many players putting together more than two blockbuster college seasons. Recently, fantasy coaches who've spent early-round draft picks on Todd Marinovich or Tommy Maddox with the expectation of getting a long-term quarterback have been sorely disappointed.

If you organize a college fantasy league, keep in mind that you only have 12 weeks to schedule all of your games — including the championship. It also might be a good idea to limit the number of teams players can be drafted from (an eight-team league might want to use the Big Ten and Pac-10 Conferences, for example).

One of the advantages of playing the college version is none of the coaches in the league will have access to books and magazines (like the one you're reading) rating the players. It's a pure form of the

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RULES TO LIVE (AND PLAY) BY

game where all coaches must do their own homework.

Eventually somebody will probably publish a fantasy book rating the college players. At that point, coaches wanting unpolluted leagues will have to switch to high school fantasy football, or maybe even the next step down — the World League.

TEAM NAMES AND CITIES

• The best leagues we've heard from around the country require teams to be located in major cities and have semi-plausible mascots. Teams like the Butte Holes, Springfield Zips, Hartford Insurance Salesmen, Oregon Donors, Los Angeles Riot, etc. One option is to form an Earth Football League, with teams required to be located in major non-U.S. cities. In your World Bowl game, you may end up with the Nagasaki Blast and the Bagdhad Republican Guards playing for your championship.

It seems that in leagues where teams are required to have cities and nicknames, coaches begin to produce team logos and mock helmets. That's what fantasy football is all about. Jim Grys of Buffalo is the owner of the Chicago Mob; his players wear helmets dotted with bullet holes with blood streaming out. The logo for Greg Heckler's Long Beach (Fla.) Lifeguards features a life ring over the state of Florida.

Steve Argue of Tulsa actually put the logo of his Savannah Firecoral on a 32-ounce drinking cup. Even if his team doesn't make the playoffs, he can brag because of his team's style points.

THE WILD AND CRAZY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

• A lot can be learned from examining the rules and traditions of the California-based Wild and Crazy Football League, the best fantasy league we're aware of.

There are 24 teams in the WCFL, divided into a Wild Conference and a Crazy Conference. Each conference has East, Central and West divisions, and teams are required to be located in U.S. cities inside the parameters of their division (unlike in the NFL, where the Phoenix Cardinals are in the NFC East and the Atlanta Falcons are in the NFC West).

In the WCFL, the six division winners — along with a wildcard and a crazycard — qualify for the playoffs. The two conference winners battle for the right to possess the coveted Mick Jagger Incredi-Bowl Trophy, a huge glass case that encloses a football and a portrait of the Rolling Stones star. Scott Small's Miami Tourist-Trappers won Incredi-Bowl X with a 34-21 win over El Paso Tyrannosaurus Mex.

• The WCFL is believed to have invented the Toilet Bowl concept, in which the two teams with the worst records do battle to determine the league's "crappiest" team. In last year's Toilet Bowl, the Lake Tahoe Dealers defeated the Chicago Grafters 22-0, so Grafter team owners Brad and Amy May were awarded the "Flea Rodriguez Bucket of Shit" trophy, named after a former hapless owner in the league. "They'll got mocked pretty bad the whole offseason," says Michael Daly, one of the commissioners of the league and the owner of the Manhattan Beach Piers.

• Maybe the WCFL's most interesting rule: Owners can't be affiliated with other fantasy leagues. They've actually kicked out owners who tried to secretly manage teams in other leagues.

OTHER RULES AND SUGGESTIONS

• Give the home team a three-point "home-field advantage." It helps make the home-field advantage in the playoffs worth something.

• In addition to the usual lineup of eight players, submit one "overtime" player. If the game ends in a tie, the point production of the overtime players is compared.

• In order to make draft research more important, disallow waiver

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moves during the regular season. Some leagues hold a supplemental draft at the halfway point of the season for free agent players.

• Draft an NFL coach. If his team wins, the fantasy team gets three points.

• We heard from one league that allowed teams to use different offenses. Instead of two running backs, two wide receivers and a tight end, for example, coaches could go with a four-wideout, one-back "run-and-shoot" offense. Also allowed: the three-running-back Wishbone offense (losing one wideout), and the two tight end offense (again, losing one wideout).

INDIVIDUAL DEFENSIVE PLAYERS

Bill Underwood and Dan Healy of Winderemere, Fla., advocate including individual defensive players on fantasy rosters. They suggest teams should start two defensive linemen and four players from the linebacking and secondary positions.

Those six defensive players can score points in the following manner: 10 points for fumbles or interceptions returned for touchdowns, six points for interceptions, three points for sacks, one point for tackles and safeties. No points are awarded for assisted tackles or sacks.

Underwood and Healy produce a 275-page *Fantasy Football Sourcebook* in which they rate essentially all of the offensive and defensive players in the league. Here's a position-by-position glance at their assessments of the top fantasy defensive players.

DEFENSIVE END

1. **Reggie White, Phil.** Contract ends after '92 season — looking for Steve Emtman money.
2. **Bruce Smith, Buff.** Two good knees are always better than one.
3. **Clyde Simmons, Phil.** Bookend with White, ready to converge on QBs.
4. **Greg Townsend, Rdrs.** Rookie Chester McGlockton's arrival adds fountain of youth.
5. **Leslie O'Neal, S.D.** New coordinator Bill Arnsparger remolds Charger defense.

DEFENSIVE TACKLE

1. **Ray Childress, Hou.** Plugs middle with QB sacking ability.
2. **Cortez Kennedy, Sea.** Ready to blossom with Keith Millard's arrival.
3. **Jerome Brown, Phil.** Stuffs run upfront while adding sacks.
4. **Michael Dean Perry, Clev.** Healthy secondary ties up WRs while he hunts QBs.
5. **Russell Maryland, Dall.** Ready to help lead young Dallas defense.

OUTSIDE LINEBACKER

1. **Broderick Thomas, T.B.** Floyd Peters fine tunes future Pro Bowler.
2. **Darryl Talley, Buff.** Even more dangerous with return of healthy Bruce Smith.
3. **Mike Merriweather, Pitt.** Impact player on rebuilding club.
4. **Mike Croel, Den.** AFC Defensive Rookie of the Year. Ten starts, 10 sacks.
5. **Derrick Thomas, K.C.** Percy Snow returns and Dale Carter adds youth to aging secondary.

INSIDE LINEBACKERS.

1. **Junior Seau, S.D.** Can play both inside and outside linebacker positions.
2. **Jeff Herrod, Ind.** Must fight rookie Quentin Coryatt for team lead in solo tackles.
3. **Jesse Tuggle, Atl.** Offenses attempt to combat run-and-shoot with ground game.
4. **Kyle Clifton, Jets.** Steady solo tackle specialist.
5. **Al Smith, Hou.** Plugs middle against ball-control ground game.

STRONG SAFETY

1. **Eric Turner, Clev.** Missed 8 games in '91 and still finished third on team in tackles.
2. **Tim McDonald, Phoe.** Solid tackler and a good ballhawk.
3. **David Fulcher, Cin.** Bengal defense won't see sidelines in '92.
4. **Jarvis Williams, Mia.** Teams with Louis Oliver to make one of the better safety tandems in the NFL.
5. **Ronnie Lott, Rdrs.** "Father Time" has one last hurrah!

FREE SAFETY

1. **Steve Atwater, Den.** A big hitter, and he's always dangerous in center field.
2. **Chuck Cecil, G.B.** Nasty linebacker in a free safeties' body.
3. **Eddie Anderson, Rdrs.** Ronnie Lott & Co. make him a better overall player.
4. **Eugene Robinson, Sea.** Steady performer who won't disappoint.
5. **Bubba McDowell, Hou.** Rising star in young Oiler secondary.

CORNERBACK

1. **Martin Mayhew, Wash.** QBs pick on him to avoid Darrell Green.
2. **Rod Woodson, Pitt.** Size and speed win big in the NFL.
3. **Mark Collins, Gnts.** Cagey veteran who covers and wraps-up well.
4. **James Hasty, Jets.** Team's best corner gets top receiver assignments.
5. **Terrell Buckley, G.B.** QBs attack new cornerback who has last laugh.

FORGET ABOUT DEFENSIVE PLAYERS

Isn't life complicated enough already?

Not for some fantasy football fanatics who want to introduce a litany of over-complicated defensive rules.

As fantasy football reaches maturity, new scoring rules are popping up like pimples on a 15 year old. But by and large, the complexion of fantasy football shouldn't be tampered with.

Some leagues are foolishly attempting to incorporate defensive rules. They draft a team's defense or even individual defensive players, and award points for sacks, tackles, assists, QB hurries, leg whips, and every other bit of defensive minutiae they can discover.

"I see Dan Marino threw three TDs and Okoye scored twice, but I won't know whether I won until I can add up their total yardage, along with the cumulative sacks, tackles and assists of Jacob Green, Isaac Holt, Karl Mecklenburg, Lawrence Taylor Vestee Jackson and Le-Lo Lang."

Kind of takes the shine off watching *NFL Prime Time* on Sundays, doesn't it?

Why bother trying to make your game an exact simulation of the NFL game? Even fantasy baseball, with its myriad scoring categories, fails to reward players for bunting, sacrifice flies, and hitting behind runners (nor does it reward fielders with great range or penalize hitters who strike out with men in scoring position). Even fielding errors don't matter!

Defensive stats are a pain to come by, and coaches often change the numbers after reviewing game films, anyhow. If the wait for stats doesn't bother you, then join a play-by-mail league. They'll track all the stats for you, and use a scoring system more realistic than any hare-brained scheme you'll hatch up on your own.

In the mean time, stick with what made fantasy football great: give points for TDs, field goals and extra points (O.K., you can use yardage too, if you're going to be a snot about it). But *das ist alles*.

Accept fantasy football for what it is: a game that *isn't* real football. If you want the real thing, strap on the pads and try out for the Colts. I hear they need help.

—*Bruce Taylor*

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FANTASY FOOTBALL MAGAZINE 1992 CHEAT SHEET

Fantasy Football Magazine Top 20

1. Sanders, Det.
2. Rice, S.F.
3. Smith, Dall.
4. Thomas, Buff.
5. Rypien, Wash.
6. Kelly, Buff.
7. Miller, Atl.
8. Moon, Hou.
9. Marino, Mia.
10. Montana, S.F.
11. Cunningham, Phil.
12. Reed, Buff.
13. Rison, Atl.
14. Hampton, Gnts.
15. Clark, Wash.
16. Clayton, Mia.
17. Taylor, S.F.
18. Anderson, Chi.
19. Irvin, Dall.
20. White, Hou.

Kickers

1. Lohmiller, Wash.
2. Stoyanovich, Mia.
3. Lowery, K.C.
4. Christie, Buff.
5. Andersen, N.O.
6. Hanson, Det.
7. Ruzek, Phil.
8. Cofer, S.F.
9. Jaeger, Rdrs.
10. Johnson, Atl.
11. Treadwell, Den.
12. Del Greco, Hou.
13. Daluiso, Dall.
14. Butler, Chi.
15. Bahr, Gnts.
16. Anderson, Pitt.
17. Stover, Clev.
18. Kasay, Sea.
19. Willis, T.B.
20. Jacke, G.B.
21. Staurovsky, Jets
22. Huerta, S.D.
23. Roman Anderson
24. Reveiz, Minn.
25. Baumann, N.E.
26. Carney, S.D.
27. Zendejas, Rams
28. Biasucci, Ind.
29. Allegre, Jets
30. Davis, Phoe.
31. Breech, Cin.
32. Leahy, Jets
33. Gardocki, Chi.
34. Norwood, Buff.
35. Lansford, K.C.
36. Wood, Hou.

Quarterbacks

1. Rypien, Wash.
2. Kelly, Buff.
3. Miller, Atl.
4. Moon, Hou.
5. Marino, Mia.
6. Montana, S.F.
7. Cunningham, Phil.
8. Krieg, K.C.
9. Aikman, Dall.
10. Young, S.F.
11. George, Ind.
12. Kosar, Clev.
13. Everett, Rams
14. Elway, Den.
15. Harbaugh, Chi.
16. Esiason, Cin.
17. Hebert, N.O.
18. Peete, Det.
19. Gannon, Minn.
20. Friesz, S.D.
21. Millen, N.E.
22. Testaverde, T.B.
23. O'Donnell, Pitt.
24. Schroeder, Rdrs.
25. Hostetler, Gnts.
26. Majkowksi, G.B.
27. Bono, S.F.
28. Nagle, Jets
29. Rosenbach, Phoe.
30. Brister, Pitt.
31. Kramer, Det.
32. McGwire, Sea.
33. Reich, Buff.
34. Carlson, Hou.
35. Tomczak, G.B.
36. Walsh, N.O.
37. Beuerlein, Dall.
38. Simms, Gnts.
39. Vlasic, K.C.
40. O'Brien, Jets
41. Marinovich, Rdrs.
42. Stouffer, Sea.
43. Conklin, Wash.
44. McMahon, Phil.
45. Chandler, Phoe.
46. Salisbury, Minn.
47. Hodson, N.E.
48. Rutledge, Wash.
49. DeBerg, T.B.
50. Kemp, Phil.
51. Tolliver, Atl.
52. Klingler, Cin.
53. Trudeau, Ind.
54. Ware, Det.
55. Philcox, Clev.
56. Pelluer, Den.
57. Pagel, Rams
58. Willis, Chi.
59. Mitchell, Mia.
60. Graham, S.D.

Running Backs

1. Sanders, Det.
2. Smith, Dall.
3. Thomas, Buff.
4. Hampton, Gnts.
5. Anderson, Chi.
6. White, Hou.
7. Butts, S.D.
8. Ervins, Wash.
9. Cobb, T.B.
10. Baxter, Jets
11. Word, K.C.
12. Russell, N.E.
13. Allen, Minn.
14. Dunbar, N.O.
15. Vardell, Clev.
16. Riggs, Wash.
17. Okoye, K.C.
18. Green, Cin.
19. Bell, Rdrs.
20. Workman, G.B.
21. Bernstine, S.D.
22. Smith, Atl.
23. Walker, Minn.
24. Higgs, Mia.
25. Hoard, Clev.
26. Muster, Chi.
27. Stacy, Phil.
28. Dickerson, Rdrs.
29. Byner, Wash.
30. Johnson, Phoe.
31. Thomas, Jets
32. Bentley, Ind.
33. Lewis, Den.
34. Williams, K.C.
35. Foster, Pitt.
36. Gary, Rams
37. Humphrey, Den.
38. Rathman, S.F.
39. Mack, Clev.
40. Allen, Rdrs.
41. Davis, Buff.
42. Williams, Sea.
43. Delpino, Rams
44. Hoge, Pitt.
45. Green, Den.
46. Lewis, Chi.
47. Smith, Mia.
48. Lee, S.F.
49. Mayes, Sea.
50. Thompson, G.B.
51. Brooks, Phil.
52. Culver, Ind.
53. Thompson, Phoe.
54. Anderson, T.B.
55. Meggett, Gnts.
56. Broussard, Atl.
57. Pinkett, N.O.
58. Brown, Hou.
59. Fenner, Cin.
60. Tillman, Gnts.

Wide Receivers

1. Rice, S.F.
2. Reed, Buff.
3. Rison, Atl.
4. Clark, Wash.
5. Clayton, Mia.
6. Taylor, S.F.
7. Irvin, Dall.
8. Jeffires, Hou.
9. Haynes, Atl.
10. Barnett, Phil.
11. Lofton, Buff.
12. Givins, Hou.
13. Sharpe, G.B.
14. Miller, S.D.
15. Williams, Phil.
16. Brown, Rdrs.
17. Monk, Wash.
18. Turner, N.O.
19. Moore, Jets
20. Barnett, K.C.
21. Green, Det.
22. Ellard, Rams
23. A.Carter, Minn.
24. Davis, Chi.
25. Brown, Cin.
26. Beebe, Buff.
27. Hester, Ind.
28. C.Carter, Minn.
29. Moore, Det.
30. Howard, Wash.
31. Dawsey, T.B.
32. Fryar, N.E.
33. Slaughter, Clev.
34. Blades, Sea.
35. Duncan, Hou.
36. Jones, Phoe.
37. Pritchard, Atl.
38. Ingram, Gnts.
39. Perriman, Det.
40. Duper, Mia.
41. Brooks, Ind.
42. Anderson, Rams
43. Johnson, Den.
44. Proehl, Phoe.
45. Toon, Jets
46. Martin, N.O.
47. Paige, K.C.
48. Harper, Dall.
49. Bailey, Hou.
50. Sanders, Wash.
51. Clark, Mia.
52. Pickens, Cin.
53. Baker, Gnts.
54. Langhorne, Ind.
55. Carrier, T.B.
56. Rowe, Clev.
57. Sherrard, S.F.
58. Fernandez, Rdrs.
59. McGee, Cin.
60. Dykes, N.E.

Tight Ends

1. Green, Pitt.
2. Jackson, Phil.
3. Cook, N.E.
4. Horton, Rdrs.
5. Novacek, Dall.
6. McKeller, Buff.
7. Mitchell, Jets
8. Brown, Gnts.
9. Jones, S.F.
10. Jordan, Minn.
11. Edmunds, Mia.
12. Holman, Cin.
13. Orr, Wash.
14. Hall, T.B.
15. Harris, G.B.
16. Glover, Rdrs.
17. McNeal, Sea.
18. Thornton, Chi.
19. Awalt, Den.
20. Walker, S.D.
21. West, G.B.
22. Galbreath, Clev.
23. Johnson, Rams
24. Hayes, K.C.
25. Young, S.D.
26. Metzelaars, Buff.
27. Holohan, Clev.
28. Tice, N.O.
29. Johnson, Det.
30. Sharpe, Den.
31. Dyal, K.C.
32. Cooper, Pitt.
33. Cross, Gnts.
34. Cash, Ind.
35. Williams, S.F.

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CHEAT SHEET UPDATE

Get the latest news and tips to prepare for your fantasy draft in our three-page August Update. Produced by the staff of Fantasy Football '92, the Update includes a revised version of the Cheat Sheet at left, plus two pages of notes.

When training camp breaks, we cover it all: injuries, holdouts, waivers, and training camp battles. We completely revise our cheat sheet and report two pages of news briefs from NFL camps and around the country. It's delivered to you by either FAX or first-class mail. All for as little as $3.

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Rules? In a knife fight?

The Lesser of Two Evils
Luke "The Truth" Esser

"RULES? In a knife fight?"

You might remember this quote as the query a puzzled Ted Cassidy addressed to Paul Newman in the movie *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* immediately before Newman kicked Cassidy in the groin.

Today, dear readers, we face the same kind of threat Cassidy did and might suffer the same painful, debilitating fate if we do not assume the position that defensive soccer players take during a free kick by the opposing team. Like those soccer players, we must protect that which is most valuable to us, that which makes our existence pleasurable and meaningful. I refer, of course, to fantasy football.

Fantasy football enjoys great popularity and devotion in 1992 because it is an allegory for the brutally simple game that it commemorates. I'm speaking of the game where you either conquer or surrender, where the violent and the virile vanquish their enemies, and the gentle and the generous genuflect to their masters. Indubitably, I mean the NFL. (If you guessed *American Gladiators*, please put down this magazine immediately. Intergalactic space mutants have captured your brain and will relinquish it only after you immerse your head in cottage cheese for three full minutes. You better get going — I promise we'll wait for you.)

If we examined our beloved fantasy game honestly, we would immediately recognize that, though it does no harm to its generous host, it is nonetheless a parasite on the body of the great and powerful NFL. We are dependent upon the NFL not only for inspiration, but for the very existence of our fantasy game. Our players can only score for us after they have scored in an NFL game. If you doubt me, go back and see how many points your fantasy team scored during the first week of the players' strike in 1987, when no games were played. Then again, maybe your team just suffered from bad coaching.

The threat I mentioned above, the one we must gird our loins for, is an onslaught of proposed rules changes from malcontents who seek to add vast new ways of scoring points in fantasy football. Like pork-barrel congressmen, these fantasy fools equate more government with good government. In the NFL there are only four ways to score points (see if you can name them all!). The simplicity of this scheme has served football well for generations and continues to be a model for the fantasy game.

Until recently, any threat to the fantasy status quo was an idle one. In one league I play in we've joked for years that we should begin drafting tackle eligibles. After a brief mock debate, we laugh at how stupid that idea is and then we work over the guy who brought it up.

Sadly, this jest of ours has become a cruel reality in some fantasy leagues. These sick people actually draft individual offensive linemen or a whole offensive line, and keep track of their stats. This is insanity! The idea of wasting time and effort drafting offensive linemen is beneath contempt and unworthy of further discussion.

However, if your league does draft these lumbering blockheads, be sure to pick up the three offensive linemen who scored touchdowns last season. Trevor Matich of the Jets grabbed the winning pass at New England to give New York a 28-21 victory. Freddie Childress recovered a Leonard Russell fumble in the end zone at home for the Patriots against the Vikings (Foxboro must be a magical place for offensive linemen).

Offensive tackle Willie Williams of the Cardinals caught a touchdown from Stan Gelbaugh during a loss to the Eagles last season (interestingly, that was as many TD's as rookie 1st-round wide receiver Randal Hill scored for Phoenix last season, so maybe Williams should demand more PT).

Even worse, many leagues draft defensive positions (e.g., linebacker or safety) or individual defensive players, and award points for sacks, tackles, and turnovers. Would it be a surprise to these people to learn that NFL games are not won by the team with the most sacks or turnovers, but instead by the team with the most points? Or that the Earth is flat, like their heads?

Do you realize how much more expensive this magazine would become if we were forced to add new sections analyzing which of the blocks of granite (or spheres of goo) who inhabit the NFL trenches have the kind of soft hands that scouts dream of? We might learn that the best fantasy linemen were the ones who regularly missed their blocking assignments, and were thus in better position to recover fumbles. And would any of this be worth an extra two dollars per issue [*three dollars in Canada—Ed.*] in the embroidered silk pockets of our publisher?

Certainly there are some minor variations that may pep up the fantasy game, like extra points for 100-yard rushers or 300-yard passers, or drafting an entire defense/special teams. But there is a line which we must not cross for fear of distancing ourselves too much from our NFL ancestry and thus falling off the end of the earth.

If too many rules and scoring variations are added to fantasy football then our game will begin to resemble that monstrosity known as rotisserie baseball. Hey, stick a fork in that game, baby. I think it's done.

It should be no surprise to anyone familiar with baseball that the rotisserie game is doomed to repeat the mistakes of the pastime it adores: the season is too long, the games are too long, and the scoring takes too long.

The rotisserie baseball player obligates himself to review an entire page of box scores and statistics seven days a week for six months straight. I am convinced that the majority of these pitiful fanatics have to quit their jobs and abandon their families between April and October. I will admit that this provides an opportunity for them to step out of their humdrum work-a-day existence for a while and live on the razor's edge, maybe even getting in touch with their inner selves. However, the 1960's ended 23 years ago and a simple nervous breakdown is much more socially acceptable today.

If you do play rotisserie baseball I dare you to take a weekend off, and don't even consider a vacation. That would be sheer folly. You'd have to hire H.R. Block to figure out your team's score from the prior two weeks. Soon thereafter Mr. Block would be longing for the simplicity of the Internal Revenue Code.

If we want to ruin fantasy football, why not draft stadiums and keep track of which team has the greater attendance every week? But that opens up the Pandora's Box of whether you count everyone in the stadium, or just the paying spectators. And what kind of draft would it be where someone could pick Denver's Mile High Stadium while Emmitt Smith was still available?

So if someone at your league meeting suggests drafting defensive players and offensive linemen, expect an argument that might only be resolved with a kick in the groin. My advice is that you maneuver yourself onto the boot side of the argument before it's too late.

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- ✓ Each player's total points (from the above calculation) are then *multiplied* by their individual 1992 performance estimate. Our grueling, in-depth, homework has determined each player's 1992 performance estimate (expressed as a pos/neg percent). If you wish, you can input your own estimates of player's 1992 performance or modify our estimates.
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Experts unanimous on Rice, Sanders; vary wildly on quarterbacks

The experts have spoken: Barry Sanders is the top player available in fantasy drafts this year.

The Detroit running back received seven first-place votes in our poll of 15 writers of fantasy football books and magazines. Jerry Rice received four first-place votes, and Jim Kelly and Mark Rypien received two each.

In the poll, the experts were asked to list their top 20 overall players and their top 20 players at each positions. Players were awarded points on the basis of 20 points for a first-place vote, 19 points for a second-place vote and so forth.

Sanders and wide receiver Jerry Rice were the only players to earn perfect scores of 300 points at their respective positions by collecting all 15 first-place votes. Kelly emerged as the No. 1 quarterback, although five other quarterbacks also received first-place votes. Placekicker Chip Lohmiller, tight end Eric Green and the Atlanta Falcons' defense/special teams were all runaway winners at their positions.

The experts were asked to rate the players on the scoring system of six points for touchdowns, four for TD passes, three for field goals, two for safeties and one for extra points, with all scores from 50-plus yards doubled in value. Defenses score on interception, fumble and kick returns, as well as fake punts and field goals.

Because many of the authors surveyed base their books on various scoring systems, the predictions printed here do not necessarily reflect those of their publications.

COULD THE EXPERTS BE WRONG?

Our own player ratings, which appear on the Cheat Sheet™ on page 18, weren't included in the poll. Some of the highlight differences between our recommendations and the poll results:

- At quarterback, we endorse Rypien rather than Kelly as the top guy. And in the No. 8 spot, we like Kansas City's Dave Krieg. He was rated as high as 10th by only one expert and finished 16th in the poll.
- No expert gave Saint running back Vaughn Dunbar a top 20 vote, but we think he should be the 14th running back drafted. Our No. 11 (Barry Word), No. 13 (Terry Allen) and No. 15 (Tommy Vardell) backs finished 31st, 34th and 38th in the experts poll. As a group, they were high on Kevin Mack, Earnest Byner, Eric Dickerson and Johnny Johnson. We'll stand our ground that those guys should be in the 30-type range. We also feel that Okoye, at No. 7, is 10 spots too high.
- No big differences at wide receiver. The experts gave the No. 2 spot to Andre Rison, while we're giving the nod to Andre Reed. We're similar through the top 10.
- At tight end, we have Marv Cook in the No. 3 position, rather than seventh. We also give a higher rating to the two first-round rookies, Johnny Mitchell and Derek Brown.
- We think Nick Lowery is the No. 3 kicker on the board, three spots higher than the experts put him, and we don't like Jeff Jaeger in the No. 4 spot. We rated Jason Hanson sixth, but he was ranked as high as 10th by only one expert.
- And in the defense/special teams section, we think the experts have dropped the Chiefs and Browns way too far.

Meet the Fantasy Experts

GREG AMBROSIUS
Company: Krause Publications
Location: Iola, Wisconsin
Publication: Fantasy Baseball (magazine)
Ordering Information: Available in stores or call 1-800-258-4298
Boldest Forecasts: Makes Young the No. 6 QB, ahead of Montana. Puts both Buffalo PKs, Christie and Norwood, in his top 12. D.Hill is No. 13 WR and Delpino and Pinkett are No. 12 & 16 RBs. Kosar is No. 19 overall.

PAUL BARNES
Company: B² Sports Analytical Services
Location: Silver Spring, Maryland
Publication: How To Win At Fantasy Football 1992
Ordering Information: call 1-800-688-7812
Boldest Forecasts: TE B.Jones, PK Christie and ST Dallas are all No. 1 at their positions. Christie is also No. 15 overall. WR Sharpe is second behind Rice and No. 14 player overall. R.Hill is No. 14 WR. Everett is ahead of Cunningham as No. 7 QB.

ANTHONY BEATTY
Company: Pro Dream Team
Location: Detroit, Michigan
Publication: Winning Fantasy Football
Ordering Information: call 313-521-5570
Boldest Forecasts: Montana is No. 1 QB, while Miller and Cunningham don't even rate among top 20 QBs. Beatty thinks Norwood and Leahy will be able to hold on to their jobs, so he puts them among his top nine PKs, along with G.Davis. Two tight ends and a defense are among his top 20 overall picks.

CHRIS CHIANESE
Company: Fantasy Football Forecast
Location: Trenton, New Jersey
Publication: Fantasy Football Forecast
Ordering Information: call 609-584-7839
Boldest Forecasts: Cunningham is No. 1 QB and No. 2 player overall. H.Walker is No. 5 RB and No. 13 overall. Peete is No. 9 QB. Only expert to not put WRs F.Barnett or Givins in top 20. T.Barnett is No. 13 WR.

RANDALL CONNORS
Company: Vision Tech Sports
Location: Laona, Wisconsin
Publication: Vision Tech Sports' Player Rating Guide
Ordering Information: call 715-674-2264
Boldest Forecasts: T.Smith is No. 7 RB. R.Clark is No. 19 WR. Three PKs in top 20 overall, including Christie and Andersen. Taylor is only No. 11 among WRs. Sharpe is No. 4 WR. QBs Aikman, Esiason, Everett & George are ahead of Montana.

BRODERICK DOW
Company: PrimeTime Sports Data Service
Location: Lancaster, California
Publication: Fantasy Football Handbook
Ordering information: call 1-800-524-6834
Boldest Forecasts: Four PKs among top 20 overall, including Cofer and N.Johnson. Nagle and McGwire among top 15 QBs. Philadelphia is No. 1 ST. Dickerson is No. 10 RB. Jeffires only 18th at WR. Esiason is No. 8 QB.

DICK GIEBEL
Company: Franchise Football League
Location: Waldorf, Maryland
Publication: FFL 1992 Fantasy Football Journal
Ordering Information: call 1-800-872-0335
Boldest Forecasts: Four QBs and two PKs are top six picks overall, ahead of Rice and Sanders. His top 20 overall includes PKs Willis (17th) and Jaeger (18th). Young is ahead of Montana and is No. 10 player overall. Hoard is No. 9 RB.

DAN HEALY
Company: Fantasy Sports Forecasting Service
Location: Windermere, Florida
Publication: Fantasy Football Sportsbook
Ordering Information: call 407-578-1490
Boldest Forecasts: Healy and partner Bill Underwood put four PKs in top 20, including two ahead of E.Smith, Rice and T.Thomas. RB Sanders is only No. 6 overall; WR Rice is No. 12 overall. PK Ruzek is his No. 14 overall. Gannon and Majkowski are No. 9-10 QBs. Humphrey & J.L.Williams are No. 10 & 13 RBs.

RICK KORCH
Company: Pro Football Weekly
Location: Northbrook, Illinois
Publication: Fantasy Football Abstract 1992
Ordering Information: available at bookstores
Boldest Forecasts: Moon is No. 1 QB and No. 2 pick overall. Cunningham gets the No. 3 nod at QB. RBs Cobb and Russell and TE Mitchell don't make lists. Schroeder and Brister are among top 20 QBs. Aikman is No. 7 QB, ahead of Miller.

ADRIAN MARCEWICZ
Company: Game Plan Fantasy Football Yearbook
Location: Philadelphia
Publication: Game Plan Fantasy Football Yearbook
Ordering Information: call 215-722-3565
Boldest Forecasts: Montana is No. 1 QB and No. 3 overall. RB White is No. 3, ahead of T.Thomas. Gary, Hoge and A.Lee are No. 7, 11 & 16 RBs. Stoyanovich is No. 1 PK. F.Barnett is No. 4 WR. Dawsey is No. 14 WR. Allegre is No. 13 PK.

DAN MURPHY
Company: Professional Fantasy Services
Location: Toledo, Ohio
Publication: The Combine
Ordering Information: call 419-351-5474
Boldest Forecasts: Rypien is No. 1 overall. Aikman is No. 6 QB ahead of Cunningham and Montana. H.Walker is No. 5 RB. TE E.Green cracks top 20. Atlanta ST ranks only 7th. WR G.Clark is No. 9 overall. Cofer not in top 20 PKs. Orr is No. 7 TE.

ERIC PATTON
Company: Fan-Pro
Location: Apple Valley, Minnesota
Publication: FANtasy Football PROfile
Ordering Information: write to P.O. Box 240324, Apple Valley MN 55124.
Boldest Forecasts: Miller is No. 1 QB, N.Johnson is No. 2 PK, Craig is No. 15 RB. WR Sharpe and Browns ST not in top 20s. C.Williams and C.Carter are No. 10 & 14 WRs. Cobb & Russell not among top 20 RBs. Krieg is No. 10 QB. Atlanta ST only No. 4.

JACK PULLMAN
Company: All Pro Publishing
Location: Panorama City, California
Publication: All Pro Yearbook 1992
Ordering Information: call 818-893-5055
Boldest Forecasts: H.Green is No. 9 RB. WR Fryar, RB K.Davis rank in their top 20s. Kramer is No. 14 QB. Okoye not among top 20 RBs. Bernstine is No. 10 RB. Word, Workman and T.Allen are No. 13, 15 & 17 RBs. A.Miller not among top 20 WRs.

DAVID STURMS
Company: D & V Sports Enterprises
Location: Hinsdale, Illinois
Publication: D & V Sports Fantasy Football Draft Guide
Ordering Information: call 708-655-9389
Boldest Forecasts: RBs Hampton and Anderson are among top six picks overall. K.Jackson is No. 1 TE & 19th overall. Peete and Majkowski are No. 8-9 QBs. K.C. is No. 1 ST. Kasay is No. 4 PK. Cunningham is No. 2 QB. Vardell & Hoge are No. 15 & 17 RBs.

ROBERT ZEWE
Company: Fantasy Football Fanatics, Inc.
Location: Pleasant Hills, Pennsylvania
Publication: FFF Inc. 1992 Draft Day Priority Listing
Ordering Information: call 412-882-6028
Boldest Forecasts: Zewe and partner Robert Lalli make Miller No. 1 QB. Norwood is No. 11 PK, while Christie not among top 20. Willis is No. 12 PK. Riggs is No. 6 RB. Pinkett is No. 19 RB. McGwire is No. 20 QB. Muster & Delpino are No. 14-15 RBs.

FANTASY FOOTBALL MAGAZINE POLL

OVERALL TOP 25

	Points	Ambrosius	Barnes	Beatty	Chianese	Connors	Dow	Giebel	Healy	Korch	Marcewicz	Murphy	Patton	Pullman	Sturms	Zewe
1. B. Sanders (7)	279	1	2	1	1	1	3	7	6	4	1	3	1	2	2	1
2. Kelly (2)	256	3	4	4	4	2	1	2	1	3	4	2	10	5	9	5
3. J. Rice (4)	251	9	1	2	3	4	6	12	12	1	2	5	3	1	1	2
4. E. Smith	230	2	6	7	5	3	5	11	10	7	7	10	2	3	4	3
5. T. Thomas	222	6	7	6	8	2	7	8	13	6	9	4	4	4	3	6
6. Moon	217	5	3	5	7	7	10	9	3	2	11	6	8	6	7	9
7. Rypien (2)	212	4	9	3	15	5	2	1	2	11	14	1	11	8	14	7
8. C. Miller	172	8	8	•	11	15	8	5	5	•	5	7	5	7	13	4
9. Cunningham	151	7	•	•	2	9	16	3	11	5	15	18	9	11	8	8
10. Hampton	138	16	12	18	9	8	17	13	15	12	10	17	6	9	5	10
11. Marino	119	13	10	10	16	11	18	15	8	10	20	11	7	17	18	12
12. Rison	118	18	•	19	6	12	12	14	17	15	6	8	12	12	10	15
13. Montana	116	10	5	•	12	•	15	•	7	8	3	•	20	10	11	14
14. Lohmiller	88	•	17	15	•	14	4	4	4	•	•	15	•	19	17	13
15. N. Anderson	72	11	•	8	•	10	14	•	•	9	18	•	•	•	6	20
16. L. White	57	•	11	•	•	•	•	•	•	17	8	•	13	13	12	16
17. Aikman	56	15	•	9	19	16	9	16	16	•	•	12	•	•	•	•
18. G. Clark	52	•	•	12	•	•	•	19	•	14	•	9	15	15	•	11
19. A. Reed	44	20	16	•	20	13	•	20	18	13	17	•	19	16	15	•
20. M. Irvin	33	•	•	•	10	•	•	•	19	•	19	13	•	14	•	18
21. Okoye	33	12	•	14	14	•	•	•	•	16	•	•	16	•	•	•
22. Stoyanovich	28	•	•	•	•	•	13	6	20	•	•	•	•	•	•	17
23. J. Taylor	21	•	•	•	•	•	20	•	•	18	12	•	18	•	16	•
24. Christie	19	•	15	•	•	20	•	•	9	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
25. S. Young	18	14	•	•	•	•	•	10	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

ALSO RECEIVING VOTES: Ambrosius: 17 Butts, 19 Clayton; **Barnes:** 13 Butts, 14 Sharpe, 18 Cobb, 19 Russell, 20 Jeffires; **Beatty:** 11 Elway, 13 E.Green, 16 K.Jackson, 17 Haynes, 20 Eagles ST; **Chianese:** 13 H.Walker, 17 Baxter, 18 Clayton; **Connors:** 17 Esiason, 18 Haynes, 19 Andersen; **Dow:** 11 Cofer, 19 N.Johnson; **Giebel:** 17 Willis, 18 Jaeger; **Healy:** 14 Ruzek; **Korch:** 19 Jeffires, 20 Clayton; **Marcewicz:** 13 F.Barnett, 16 Clayton; **Murphy:** 14 Jeffires, 16 E.Green, 19 Clayton, 20 H.Walker; **Patton:** 14 Baxter, 17 Clayton **Pullman:** 18 Jeffires, 20 Baxter; **Sturms:** 19 K.Jackson, 20 Baxter; **Zewe:** 19 Riggs.

Fantasy experts divided on value of kickers

Barry Sanders captured the No. 1 ranking in the first-ever Fantasy Football Top 25 Poll, outdistancing Jim Kelly, Jerry Rice and Emmitt Smith. However, the more interesting results came further down, where three kickers earned enough votes to place in the top 25.

Chip Lohmiller was named on 10 ballots and placed 14th. Pete Stoyanovich and Steve Christie finished 22nd and 24th. Four experts voted for Stoyanovich, three for Christie. Six other kickers got one vote each.

Should a fantasy coach utilize a top 20 pick on a placekicker?

- Pro: "I really like Christie. Now that he's moved to Buffalo, he's going to be really tough," says Randall Connors. "If you can get the best one (kicker) it could really pay off."
- Con: "There are so many good kickers who will get you 100 points that it's better to just pick one up later on," Rick Korch counters.

Two thirds of the experts suggest it's worthwhile investing a top 20 pick in a placekicker, and five of them suggest two or more kickers should be early-round picks. Two of the experts even say a kicker should be drafted before Rice, Smith or Thurman Thomas.

Chip Lohmiller drafted before Jerry Rice?

Dan Healy, Dick Giebel and Broderick Dow all rank two kickers among the top 11 players overall. All three pollsters rank Lohmiller fourth. Giebel puts Stoyanovich at sixth, Healy has Christie ninth and Dow rates Mike Cofer 11th.

Seriously, Lohmiller before Rice?

"He (Lohmiller) is that dominant of a player," says Dow, who also likes Stoyanovich (13th) and Norm Johnson (19th). "Washington's got that great offense and now they're adding Desmond Howard. They're always going to be able to move the ball."

Agrees Giebel: "Lohmiller and Stoyanovich will take placekicking to another level. If these guys kicked indoors, we would witness plenty of 60-yard field goals." Giebel puts Ken Willis 17th and Jeff Jaeger 18th.

Healy is the one expert who has Christie going before Rice, Smith or Thomas. Along with partner Bill Underwood, he also ranks Roger Ruzek 14th and Stoyanovich 20th. "It's a gamble, but it could really pay off."

Greg Ambrosius says the experts who advocate taking kickers before Rice and Smith don't know what they're talking about. "The point difference between the kickers is insignificant," he said. "The only one who stands out is Lohmiller, and even the year before he wasn't that great ... they (kickers) are a dime a dozen."

SANDERS IS NO. 1

Sanders was first by a decisive 23-point margin. He collected seven first-place votes, and only three of the experts — Giebel, Healy and Korch — didn't have him in their top three. "Look for Sanders to equal or exceed his production from last year," says David Sturms.

Kelly, who was a top 10 placer on all ballots, edged Rice by five points for second. Rice had four first-place votes to Kelly's two but was ranked only 12th by Giebel and Healy.

Smith edged Thomas, Moon and Rypien for third. Rypien did, however, receive a couple of first-place votes.

Rodney Hampton and Dan Marino, who finished 10th and 11th, were the only other players to be named on all 15 ballots. Chris Miller and Randall Cunningham, who were passed over by two experts, still collected enough points to finish eighth and ninth.

FANTASY FOOTBALL MAGAZINE **POLL**

QUARTERBACKS

		Points	Ambrosius	Barnes	Beatty	Chianese	Connors	Dow	Giebel	Healy	Korch	Marcewicz	Murphy	Patton	Pullman	Sturms	Zewe
1.	Kelly (4)	284	1	2	3	2	2	1	2	1	2	2	2	5	1	3	2
2.	Moon (3)	270	3	1	4	3	3	4	5	3	1	4	3	3	2	1	5
3.	Rypien (3)	263	2	5	2	6	1	2	1	2	6	5	1	6	4	6	3
4.	Miller (2)	240	4	4	•	4	6	3	4	4	8	3	4	1	3	5	1
5.	Montana (2)	229	7	3	1	5	11	5	13	5	4	1	8	7	5	4	7
6.	Marino	227	5	6	6	7	5	7	7	6	5	7	5	2	7	7	6
7.	Cunningham (1)	225	8	8	•	1	4	6	3	7	3	6	7	4	6	2	4
8.	Aikman	188	9	9	5	8	7	9	8	8	7	14	6	9	8	11	9
9.	Everett	161	13	7	10	10	9	13	15	11	9	13	9	8	9	10	8
10.	Elway	143	11	16	8	17	12	10	9	12	11	8	10	11	10	16	11
11.	Esiason	143	14	14	7	14	8	8	10	17	10	9	12	12	12	15	10
12.	Kosar	101	10	19	•	13	15	14	11	15	13	11	11	14	11	19	17
13.	Harbaugh	88	12	•	12	16	16	12	17	13	19	15	14	15	16	17	12
14.	George	84	15	11	11	18	10	17	•	•	12	•	17	13	15	14	15
15.	Peete	65	20	•	9	9	•	•	16	18	•	10	13	•	•	8	•
16.	Krieg	56	16	20	15	•	18	18	•	•	17	16	18	10	17	13	18
17.	Young	55	6	•	13	•	•	•	6	•	•	•	•	•	•	12	13
18.	Majkowski	52	19	10	17	12	•	•	•	10	•	18	•	•	•	9	•
19.	Hebert	51	•	12	•	•	20	19	12	16	15	17	15	20	13	•	•
20.	Testaverde	48	•	13	20	11	13	16	19	•	16	19	16	•	•	•	19
21.	Rosenbach	41	17	15	16	15	•	•	14	14	•	•	•	18	19	20	•
22.	Gannon	37	•	18	•	20	14	•	•	9	•	12	•	19	18	•	•
23.	Friesz	32	18	17	•	•	17	20	20	19	20	•	19	17	•	18	14
24.	Millen	14	•	•	18	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	20	16	•	•	16
25.	Nagle	14	•	•	19	•	19	11	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

ALSO RECEIVING VOTES: Beatty: 14 Brister; **Chianese:** 19 O'Donnell; **Dow:** 15 McGwire; **Giebel:** 18 Hostetler; **Healy:** 20 Marinovich; **Korch:** 14 Schroeder, 18 Brister; **Marcewicz:** 20 Schroeder; **Pullman:** 14 Kramer, 20 Hostetler; **Zewe:** 20 McGwire.

Remarkable parity among fantasy quarterbacks

Mirror, mirror, on the wall, who's the best quarterback of all?

Buffalo's Jim Kelly, say the experts, although he gets only four first-place votes out of 15. Four other quarterbacks got multiple first-place votes, and Randall Cunningham got one No. 1 endorsement.

The Bill quarterback captured the No. 1 spot because he was able to finish first or second on 12 of the 15 ballots. Warren Moon and Mark Rypien each received three first-place votes, and Chris Miller and Joe Montana got a couple each to round out the top five.

TALK ABOUT PARITY

The pollsters didn't see a huge difference between Kelly and Dan Marino and Cunningham, who held the No. 6 and No. 7 positions. Kelly finished with 284 poll points, Cunningham was at 225 even though he didn't even rank among the top 20 of one expert.

"You can almost take the top seven and turn them around," says Pullman, a Kelly backer. "But after those guys it really drops off." Pullman advocates that coaches in leagues with 10 or less teams try to draft either Jerry Rice or a franchise running back in the first round and get their quarterback in the second.

The experts put Troy Aikman in the No. 8 spot, and Jim Everett and John Elway round out the top 10.

A BAD MOON RISING

Moon was the only quarterback besides Kelly to be included in the top five by all 15 pollsters. Paul Barnes sees the Houston quarterback bouncing back from a subpar year and leading all quarterbacks in scoring.

"You've got to remember that he faced a brutal schedule last year — it's much easier this year," said Barnes, who gave his No. 2 vote to Kelly. "The run-and-shoot is still a unique offense with great potential."

Rick Korch was the other expert making Moon No. 1. "Last year was an oddity (for Moon). He throws so many passes that he's almost guaranteed to throw 25 or 30 touchdowns," Korch said.

MONTANA VS. YOUNG

Two of the experts think Steve Young is a better draft pick than Joe Montana, arguing that the 36-year-old will likely get hurt. Dick Giebel ranks Young sixth and Montana 13th. Greg Ambrosius also has Young sixth, but only one spot ahead of Montana. "We're just a little skeptical of whether he (Montana) will be back."

Two experts weren't scared away by any of the injury concerns surrounding Montana — Adrian Marcewicz and Anthony Beatty went ahead and ranked him No. 1. Marcewicz says he sees Montana as a risk worth taking.

"Last year, the San Francisco quarterbacks threw 29 touchdown passes, including seven bonus scores," he says. "Montana's a bit of a gamble, but he's got the supporting cast to have a monster season."

SUPER BOWL MVP? BIG DEAL

Even though Mark Rypien finished second in fantasy points last year, seven of the 15 experts didn't even rank him in their top three. Four experts rank him sixth, citing past injuries and Washington's difficult schedule.

But two experts — Giebel and Dan Murphy — not only had Rypien as their No. 1 quarterback, but also like the Super Bowl MVP as the No. 1 player overall. "He has six proven weapons, an emerging star in Ervins and a brilliant rookie in Howard," Murphy says. "And he'll get time to throw."

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FANTASY FOOTBALL MAGAZINE **POLL**

RUNNING BACKS

		Points	Ambrosius	Barnes	Beatty	Chianese	Connors	Dow	Giebel	Healy	Korch	Marcewicz	Murphy	Patton	Pullman	Sturms	Zewe
1.	Sanders (15)	300	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2.	E. Smith	279	2	2	4	2	3	2	3	2	2	2	3	2	2	3	2
3.	T. Thomas	274	3	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	3	4	2	3	3	2	3
4.	Hampton	246	6	5	6	4	4	5	4	4	5	5	4	5	4	4	4
5.	N. Anderson	224	4	10	3	10	5	4	5	6	4	6	7	8	7	5	7
6.	Butts	172	7	6	13	11	6	9	10	7	8	8	9	9	18	9	13
7.	Okoye	168	5	20	5	6	8	6	14	9	6	15	6	7	•	10	9
8.	White	163	•	4	•	9	20	•	8	8	7	3	10	4	5	6	5
9.	Baxter	158	8	15	•	7	15	8	13	5	11	19	8	6	6	7	8
10.	Cobb	118	10	7	•	12	12	15	7	20	•	9	16	•	8	8	10
11.	Mack	91	11	•	8	8	•	13	17	14	17	12	13	11	•	•	16
12.	Ervins	77	•	13	•	•	18	•	6	12	•	14	12	13	12	16	17
13.	Russell	73	19	8	•	•	9	18	•	16	•	•	11	•	11	12	12
14.	Riggs	62	9	•	•	•	•	7	•	•	14	18	19	14	19	•	6
15.	Byner	61	14	•	7	15	14	17	18	•	12	•	•	10	•	•	•
16.	H. Green	61	•	•	•	20	11	•	11	15	10	•	17	•	9	14	•
17.	Dickerson	60	•	•	9	14	13	10	•	•	9	•	14	18	•	•	•
18.	Bernstine	56	17	•	12	•	17	•	•	•	15	13	•	17	10	•	11
19.	J. Johnson	53	•	•	15	•	•	11	12	•	•	10	•	•	14	11	•
20.	Humphrey	49	•	•	10	13	•	14	16	10	•	•	•	•	16	19	•
21.	Gary	49	•	12	•	•	16	12	•	17	•	7	•	•	•	13	•
22.	H. Walker	48	20	•	•	5	19	•	•	11	•	•	5	•	•	•	18
23.	N. Bell	38	•	9	•	19	10	•	•	•	•	•	•	12	•	18	20
24.	Delpino	35	12	•	•	18	•	•	15	•	•	•	15	16	•	•	15
25.	Hoard	25	15	•	14	•	•	•	9	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

ALSO RECEIVING VOTES: Ambrosius: 13 G.Green, 16 Pinkett, 18 Muster, **Barnes:** 11 Sm.Smith, 14 Bentley, 16 Workman, 17 T.Smith, 18 T.Allen, 19 Vardell; **Beatty:** 11 J.Brooks, 16 Pinkett, 17 Word, 18 J.L.Williams, 19 Mayes, 20 B.Thomas; **Chianese:** 16 Muster, 17 Workman; **Connors:** 7 T.Smith; **Dow:** 16 Muster, 19 Word, 20 J.L.Williams; **Giebel:** 19 G.Green, 20 T.Smith; **Healy:** 13 J.L.Williams, 18 Rathman, 19 Muster; **Korch:** 13 B.Thomas, 16 J.L.Williams, 18 G.Green, 19 T.Smith, 20 H.Williams; **Marcewicz:** 11 Hoge, 16 A.Lee, 17 T.Allen, 20 B.Thomas; **Murphy:** 18 J.L.Williams, 20 T.Smith; **Patton:** 15 Craig, 19 T.Smith, 20 Muster; **Pullman:** 13 Word, K.C., 15 Workman, 17 T.Allen, 20 K.Davis; **Sturms:** 15 Vardell, 17 Hoge; **Zewe:** 14 Muster, 19 Pinkett.

Four obvious picks — then it's anybody's guess

A quartet of running backs stand above the rest of the field — Barry Sanders, Emmitt Smith, Thurman Thomas and Rodney Hampton — before the disagreements begin.

Sanders took all 15 first-place votes, Smith and Thomas grabbed 28 of the 30 second- and third-place votes, and Rodney Hampton was a top six choice of all the pollsters. Neal Anderson captured the fifth spot, but a majority of experts didn't have him that high.

Marion Butts ranks sixth even though he was rated below sixth by 13 experts. No other running backs even made it on to all 15 lists.

"Running back is the weakest position," Rick Korch says. "There are four or five very good backs, then a bunch of guys who might or might not do very much."

A DIFFERENCE OF OPINIONS

Christian Okoye, Lorenzo White, Brad Baxter and Reggie Cobb round out the top 10, but no one expert had all of those players in his top 10. Adrian Marcewicz had Cleveland Gary seventh, Randall Connors put Tony Smith seventh, Robert Zewe had Gerald Riggs sixth and Dan Murphy and Chris Chianese put Herschel Walker in the No. 5 spot.

Nine other experts didn't even have Walker in their top 20. "Whatever team he plays for, he's going to produce," Chianese says. "Walker getting away from Minnesota is only going to help him. He could score 15 touchdowns."

EMMITT WHIPS THURMAN

Smith beat Thomas decisively for second place, getting the second-place nod from 10 of the experts. Most of the experts said they were concerned about Buffalo's tendency to use running backs other than Thomas in goal-line situations. "They have some other options down inside the red zone," Dan Healy said.

But Connors, who rated Thomas second, says the difference between Sanders and Thomas is smaller than the difference between Thomas and Smith. "Thomas is the best back in the league," Connors says. "If you put Barry Sanders on the Bills, he wouldn't be as good as Thomas, but if you put Thomas on the Lions he'd be just as good as Sanders. I think a lot of that comes from being taken in the second round. He still has something to prove."

Marcewicz didn't have any hesitation handing his No. 1 vote to Sanders. He also endorses the Detroit back as the top overall pick for fantasy coaches. "To win at fantasy football, you must have a solid running attack, so you have to grab a quality back early on. Barry Sanders is the cream of the crop."

LORENZO IS NO. 8

Houston's Lorenzo White was high on most experts' lists. If three experts — Greg Ambrosius, Anthony Beatty and Broderick Dow — had included him in their top 20s the Oiler running back probably would have finished in sixth place in the poll, a shade below Anderson.

"That's a big mistake (leaving White out)," said Eric Patton, who gave White the No. 4 spot ahead of Hampton. "I hope people look back at the list after the year and see who had Lorenzo White up there. He's going to score 13 touchdowns or so."

Four backs who combined for 42 touchdowns last year didn't get much respect from the pollsters. Robert Delpino was 24th, Leroy Hoard was 25th, and Allen Pinkett and Vince Workman didn't even make the top 25.

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FANTASY FOOTBALL MAGAZINE **POLL**

RECEIVERS

		Points	Ambrosius	Barnes	Beatty	Chianese	Connors	Dow	Giebel	Healy	Korch	Marcewicz	Murphy	Patton	Pullman	Sturms	Zewe
1.	Rice (15)	300	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2.	Rison	273	2	5	7	2	2	2	2	2	4	2	2	2	2	2	4
3.	Reed	254	3	3	3	5	3	6	4	3	2	6	7	6	4	3	3
4.	G. Clark	236	5	8	4	7	6	7	3	5	3	9	3	3	3	11	2
5.	Irvin	234	4	6	2	3	5	4	6	4	7	7	4	9	5	10	5
6.	Taylor	208	8	9	6	8	11	3	10	8	5	3	10	5	9	4	8
7.	Clayton	194	10	10	18	4	7	5	9	6	8	5	6	4	8	12	9
8.	Jeffires	192	6	4	10	6	9	18	7	10	6	8	5	11	6	7	10
9.	Haynes	174	9	16	5	9	10	8	5	11	9	10	12	7	7	16	7
10.	F. Barnett	145	19	20	13	•	14	14	8	9	11	4	8	8	10	5	6
11.	Sharpe	142	7	2	11	10	4	10	15	7	19	13	13	•	14	9	18
12.	Givins	137	16	7	8	•	8	13	11	20	10	12	9	13	11	6	13
13.	R. Moore	82	20	15	16	20	12	15	14	15	14	15	16	19	15	13	14
14.	A. Miller	69	14	13	9	•	20	9	•	13	•	•	17	•	•	8	17
15.	Monk	63	11	•	•	15	•	11	•	16	12	•	15	12	18	•	16
16.	A.Carter	58	15	•	12	•	16	•	12	12	13	19	•	16	17	20	•
17.	Ellard	45	12	•	•	16	13	17	20	19	16	•	11	•	20	•	•
18.	Lofton	43	18	•	•	11	•	•	•	•	15	18	19	•	12	•	11
19.	E. Brown	41	•	11	•	•	18	16	•	•	17	•	14	•	13	17	•
20.	W. Green	30	•	•	•	12	15	•	•	•	•	•	•	17	16	•	15
21.	C. Williams	29	•	•	•	•	•	•	16	17	•	•	•	10	•	•	12
22.	T. Brown	28	•	12	•	•	•	•	•	14	•	16	•	•	•	14	•
23.	F. Turner	28	•	•	•	17	•	•	13	18	•	11	•	18	•	•	•
24.	C. Carter	25	17	•	14	14	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	14	•	•	•
25.	R. Clark	15	•	•	19	•	19	12	19	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

ALSO RECEIVING VOTES: Ambrosius: 13 D.Hill; **Barnes:** 14 R.Hill, 17 B.Brooks, 18 Beebe, 19 Dawsey; **Beatty:** 15 Slaughter, 17 E.Martin, 20 Fernandez, **Chianese:** 13 T.Barnett, 18 B.Brooks, 19 E.Jones, **Connors:** 17 Howard; **Dow:** 19 Sanders, 20 W.Davis; **Giebel:** 17 Howard, 18 Beebe; **Korch:** 18 E.Martin, 20 Howard; **Marcewicz:** 14 Dawsey, 17 Jackson (Clev.), 20 Hester; **Murphy:** 18 Slaughter, 20 H.Moore; **Patton:** 15 Duper, 20 Duncan; **Pullman:** 19 Fryar; **Sturms:** 15 H.Moore, 18 Pritchard, 19 T.Barnett; **Zewe:** 19 Dawsey, 20 T.Barnett.

It's Jerry Rice and 'just a bunch of other guys'

Jerry Rice has been the top-scoring wide receiver in fantasy football for six straight years. No expert sees that trend ending in 1992.

"He's the most consistently productive player in any team sport," Jack Pullman says. "He just does it every year."

Andre Rison, Andre Reed, Gary Clark and Michael Irvin round out the top five.

There's more agreement among the experts at wide receiver than any other position. Ten receivers were named on all 15 ballots and the top 14 wide receivers collected 149 of the 150 top-10 votes. The lone exception: Eric Patton ranks Calvin Williams ninth.

Fred Barnett and Sterling Sharpe, who each scored only four times last year, were each named on 14 of 15 ballots and finished 10th and 11th overall, respectively.

Four of the experts not only made Rice the No. 1 wide receiver, they made him the overall No. 1 selection as well. "With a healthy Montana and easy schedule, he'll be the most valuable fantasy player," Paul Barnes says. "He's way above the other wide receivers. He's the safest and surest pick."

The three other experts who rated Rice No. 1 overall were Pullman, David Sturms and Rick Korch.

"When it comes to wide receivers, there's Jerry Rice and then just a bunch of other guys," Korch said.

RATING THE TWO ANDRES

Rison collected 11 of the second-place votes to outdistance Reed for second place behind Rice. Ten of the experts made Reed a top-four choice, but he received only one second-place vote, from Korch. Anthony Beatty made Irvin his No. 2, Robert Zewe went with Clark, and Barnes went out on a limb with Sharpe.

Eric Patton says there's no comparison between the two Andres. He had Rison second and Reed sixth. "I see the Bills playing just over .500 ball this season. They lost (offensive coordinator Ted) Marchibroda. That's going to hurt and I think their offense could suffer."

Two experts, including Chris Chianese, say Rison is just a shade behind Rice.

"I debated whether to put Rison at No. 1, because he's at the brink of producing Jerry Rice-like seasons," Chianese said. "You don't lose much with Rison. In my draft, I'd rather select Rison and let someone else have Rice; that way you get a better second-round pick."

Says Sturms: "If everything clicks for the Falcons, look for Rison to have a Jerry Rice-type of year."

THEY GET NO RESPECT

James Lofton, Art Monk, Floyd Turner and Willie Green — all big scorers last year — didn't fare well in the poll. None of these players received a top 10 vote and the majority of experts didn't even include Lofton, Turner or Green in their top 20s.

Michael Haynes, because of four TDs scored from beyond 50 yards, was the No. 2 wide receiver in fantasy football last year. The experts frowned on him also. He received only two No. 5 votes and finished ninth.

Sensing a Ram revival, the experts made Henry Ellard their No. 16 overall wide receiver. Maybe the biggest surprise was former Dolphin Robert Clark finishing 25th.

Dan Murphy says the crop of receivers is the deepest in years. "There will be bargains at wide receiver. Fred Barnett, Henry Ellard, Sterling Sharpe, Eddie Brown, Anthony Miller and Webster Slaughter will all return to form."

FANTASY FOOTBALL MAGAZINE POLL

TIGHT ENDS

		Points	Ambrosius	Barnes	Beatty	Chianese	Connors	Dow	Giebel	Healy	Korch	Marcewicz	Murphy	Patton	Pullman	Sturms	Zewe
1.	E. Green (10)	293	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	2	2
2.	K. Jackson (4)	283	2	7	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	3	1	2	1	1
3.	Novacek	254	4	5	3	3	6	3	3	6	3	9	2	4	3	4	3
4.	Horton	232	5	6	6	5	12	5	6	4	8	3	6	2	4	7	4
5.	McKeller	220	6	2	7	4	7	10	9	3	6	10	4	8	7	6	6
6.	B. Jones (1)	210	7	1	10	13	4	4	11	5	5	5	14	12	6	3	5
7.	Cook	208	3	4	14	9	3	•	5	12	4	4	5	5	5	5	8
8.	Holman	181	8	8	4	8	5	7	12	13	9	7	10	13	10	13	7
9.	Jordan	167	9	10	5	10	14	8	13	7	7	13	8	7	11	12	14
10.	D. Brown	133	•	12	•	7	8	20	4	•	10	6	15	9	8	8	12
11.	Edmunds	124	15	11	8	12	15	17	•	9	14	8	12	14	14	10	11
12.	West	101	11	•	12	15	11	6	10	•	11	17	9	18	17	14	•
13.	Orr	98	18	14	•	•	•	9	8	10	15	•	7	10	12	•	9
14.	D.Johnson	88	10	•	•	11	13	12	15	8	16	12	11	•	•	16	19
15.	Mitchell	83	•	15	•	6	10	13	7	19	•	18	18	•	16	9	17
16.	Hall	60	14	18	9	18	9	•	•	17	18	•	17	19	•	11	•
17.	J. Harris	56	13	9	•	•	19	•	•	11	•	11	•	•	•	15	13
18.	Holohan	53	20	•	11	•	•	•	•	16	12	19	•	6	15	•	16
19.	McEwen	43	•	•	•	14	•	•	16	•	17	•	•	11	19	17	10
20.	Hayes	33	•	•	13	•	18	11	•	15	•	15	•	•	•	•	•
21.	Thornton	31	16	•	15	17	17	19	•	•	•	•	16	17	•	20	•
22.	Price	30	12	•	•	•	20	•	•	•	13	•	•	•	9	•	•
23.	Rolle	25	19	13	18	•	•	14	•	•	•	•	20	•	18	•	20
24.	J. Johnson	19	•	17	•	•	•	•	20	14	19	16	•	•	•	•	•
25.	Cooper	14	•	•	•	•	•	•	19	•	20	•	•	20	20	18	15

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FANTASY FOOTBALL MAGAZINE **POLL**

KICKERS

		Points	Ambrosius	Barnes	Beatty	Chianese	Connors	Dow	Giebel	Healy	Korch	Marcewicz	Murphy	Patton	Pullman	Sturms	Zewe
1.	Lohmiller (13)	298	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
2.	Stoyanovich (1)	269	3	5	7	2	4	3	2	4	3	1	3	3	2	2	2
3.	Andersen	238	7	4	8	5	2	6	5	6	5	8	4	6	3	5	3
4.	Jaeger	205	6	6	2	6	13	5	4	9	8	12	6	8	4	16	5
5.	Christie (1)	200	8	1	17	8	3	14	8	2	2	3	2	18	5	3	•
6.	Lowery	199	2	8	5	7	16	7	11	8	4	7	9	5	8	6	13
7.	Treadwell	197	4	10	4	9	6	10	13	7	7	6	7	7	10	10	8
8.	Ruzek	196	9	12	18	10	7	11	6	3	6	4	11	4	7	7	4
9.	Cofer	169	5	3	10	4	5	2	•	11	10	5	•	9	14	11	15
10.	N. Johnson	156	14	16	12	14	•	4	7	5	13	15	14	2	6	9	7
11.	G. Anderson	111	15	11	11	13	14	8	16	•	12	16	16	19	18	8	6
12.	Willis	96	10	15	20	3	8	9	3	•	•	•	•	14	20	•	12
13.	Del Greco	84	•	•	•	•	18	17	14	12	9	•	8	10	15	13	10
14.	Kasay	81	13	20	•	17	17	•	15	•	17	20	5	•	13	4	9
15.	Daluiso	76	11	9	•	•	•	•	•	10	11	9	12	•	9	•	•
16.	Jacke	71	19	7	13	•	9	12	19	18	18	•	17	•	17	14	18
17.	Buter	61	18	•	16	15	15	13	•	15	14	11	•	•	•	18	14
18.	Hanson	51	16	13	•	•	19	•	18	20	•	•	10	•	11	15	16
19.	Bahr	47	17	18	•	19	•	•	20	14	15	10	•	•	12	17	•
20.	G. Davis	45	•	•	6	•	•	•	10	•	•	14	18	15	•	20	19
21.	Biasucci	44	•	14	15	16	10	16	•	•	•	•	20	•	•	12	•
22.	Zendejas	42	•	•	•	18	11	•	12	19	•	•	13	12	•	•	20
23.	Norwood	37	12	•	3	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	11
24.	Staurovsky	32	•	17	•	11	•	20	•	13	20	•	15	•	•	19	•
25.	Carney	29	•	•	•	•	•	•	9	•	•	18	19	13	•	•	17

ALSO RECEIVING VOTES: Ambrosius: 20 Reveiz; **Barnes:** 19 Reveiz; **Beatty:** 9 Leahy, 14 Breech, 19 Reveiz; **Chianese:** 12 Murray; 20 Reveiz; **Connors:** 12 Stover, 20 Breech; **Dow:** 15 Murray, 18 Lansford, 19 Breech; **Giebel:** 17 Stover; **Healy:** 16 Reveiz, 17 Stover; **Korch:** 16 Breech, 17 Reveiz; **Marcewicz:** 13 Allegre, 17 Breech, 19 Reveiz; **Patton:** 11 Reveiz; 16 Allegre, 17 Stover, 20 Breech; **Pullman:** 16 Baumann, 19 Breech.

SPECIAL TEAMS

		Points	Ambrosius	Barnes	Beatty	Chianese	Connors	Dow	Giebel	Healy	Korch	Marcewicz	Murphy	Patton	Pullman	Sturms	Zewe
1.	Falcons (8)	282	1	3	4	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	7	4	1	3	1
2.	Eagles (4)	274	5	6	1	2	3	1	1	3	2	6	3	1	3	2	2
3.	Redskins (1)	236	4	4	3	5	7	3	4	8	20	2	1	6	2	7	3
4.	Oilers	209	3	8	14	3	19	5	3	2	3	5	10	10	6	6	9
5.	Cowboys (1)	195	2	1	7	4	8	•	10	6	6	4	5	19	4	19	4
6.	Saints	191	6	13	2	10	2	18	5	11	8	16	4	2	12	8	7
7.	Bills	175	7	15	10	9	4	6	9	14	10	10	6	9	9	12	10
8.	Raiders	168	12	2	6	17	6	4	14	7	15	13	2	8	15	18	8
9.	Chiefs (1)	159	11	14	11	14	11	8	11	13	9	17	16	3	11	1	6
10.	Browns	154	9	7	15	8	16	16	8	5	4	3	17	•	5	10	17
11.	Lions	137	7	12	8	•	15	9	7	16	13	8	9	17	14	17	5
12.	Broncos	129	13	11	20	11	•	10	6	4	7	18	18	5	13	9	20
13.	Steelers	116	8	•	5	7	18	14	•	19	14	7	11	15	7	20	12
14.	Vikings	115	20	10	16	6	10	12	•	10	17	9	8	13	•	16	11
15.	Bears	98	•	•	17	13	9	7	16	18	11	•	14	12	19	5	13
16.	Jets	81	10	18	•	15	•	17	18	•	5	19	•	7	16	11	14
17.	49ers	69	16	9	9	•	20	11	15	17	18	•	12	16	•	•	19
18.	Giants	69	•	•	•	20	12	15	12	•	16	12	15	14	10	15	•
19.	Dolphins	68	•	16	18	12	17	•	19	•	19	14	13	11	8	•	16
20.	Packers	51	17	5	•	18	5	•	•	•	•	20	•	18	•	13	•
21.	Chargers	46	18	•	19	•	•	13	17	15	12	15	19	•	•	•	15
22.	Seahawks	43	•	•	•	16	•	•	13	12	•	•	•	•	17	4	•
23.	Cardinals	29	14	•	•	19	•	19	•	9	•	•	•	•	18	•	18
24.	Bengals	16	15	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	11	•	•	•	•	•
25.	Buccaneers	14	•	17	•	•	•	20	20	20	•	•	•	•	•	14	•

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IN SEARCH OF THE ELU

The NFL draft is exciting, but most rookies are fantasy league busts. Here's how to avoid getting burned by rookie hype.

BY PAUL S. BARNES

ILLUSTRATION BY LES CAMPBELL

When the NFL Draft is conducted in April there is tremendous excitement and anticipation about which players go where and what impact they'll have on their teams. The same excitement usually spills over to fantasy leagues as the well-publicized, high-profile rookies are often top draft picks.

However, consider this: for the last 12 years, rookies as a group on average have been consistently poor fantasy performers. Although there are exceptions, rookies usually perform at a level well below that of established veterans.

In this study, I analyzed the rookie seasons of 166 of today's best fantasy players and compared them to the initial seasons of first-round draft choices since 1980 to determine (1) how first-year players perform; and (2) if there is a correlation between a player's production and how high he was drafted. A position-by-position composite average was derived for all rookies with the following results (yards include all yards from scrimmage):

	Games	Yards	TDs
QBs	7	976	5.6
RBs	13	507	4.9
WRs/TEs	14	551	3.3
	Games	**FGM**	**Points**
PKs	12	14.7	72

Keep in mind there are differences among rookies. Not all rookies — including some first-rounders — are expected to contribute immediately.

Further analysis shows players drafted in the upper-first round were more productive than mid- and later-first rounders. The 107 first rounders since 1980 were researched and divided into three categories: top five picks, top 10 picks and top 20 picks.

TD Average of first-round draft picks 1980-1991

	Top 5	Top 10	Top 20	All
QBs	7.7	5.3	3.6	4.7
RBs	11.9	9.1	6.5	5.2
WRs	1.7	2.3	2.7	2.9
TEs	-	9.0	4.4	4.3

The obvious conclusion is that other than high-pick running backs, first-round rookies are not productive. They certainly don't produce enough to help a fantasy franchise.

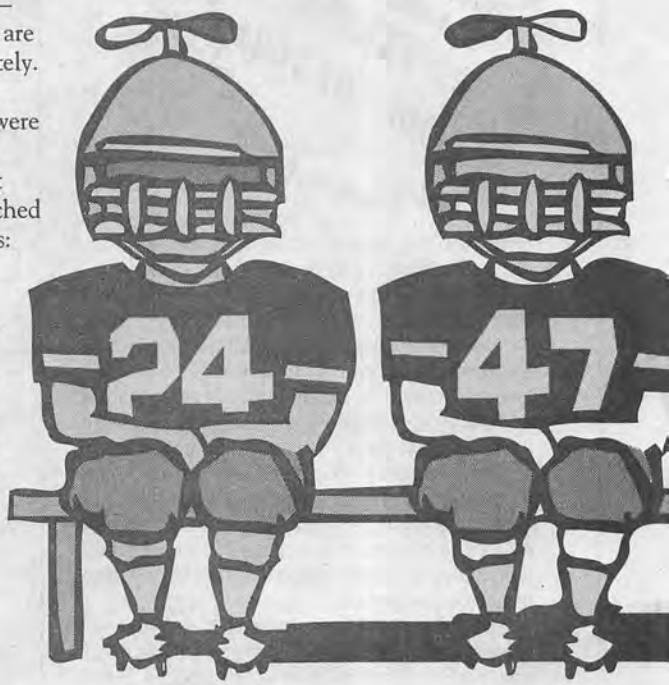
TO DRAFT OR NOT TO DRAFT?

But do the stats mean rookies should never be drafted? In a word: no. Despite their proven poor performance as a group, some rookies can enhance and contribute to fantasy teams. The trick is to know how to spot those with the best opportunity for an immediate impact. Careful and intelligent selection of these players can mean the difference between winning and losing a fantasy championship.

A closer look at the statistics shows specific trends have developed that can be the first step in picking the potential fantasy impact rookie and/or avoiding the rookie bust.

Quarterbacks. Don't draft a rookie quarterback. The only rookie signal caller worth drafting since 1980 was Dan Marino in 1983. Jeff George, with 16 touchdowns in 1990, was okay. The average production of the 33 quarterbacks analyzed was less than 1,000 yards passing and six total TDs — and those numbers are inflated by Marino and George.

Even quarterbacks taken with top-five picks didn't average more than eight scoring passes during their rookie years. Why do they fail? Most rookie quarterbacks — including Mark Rypien, Chris Miller and John Elway — are eased into action. It usually takes two or three years



USIVE IMPACT ROOKIE

before a quarterback is a full-time player.

Running Backs. Of the 59 RBs surveyed, the group averaged about 500 yards rushing and 5 touchdowns — by far the best of the key fantasy positions.

And the stats indicate the sooner the back is drafted the better. Backs taken with top-five picks averaged 12 touchdowns their rookie seasons. Although the expected performance drops as players are picked later in the draft, running backs still should warrant the most attention in fantasy drafts.

Receivers. On average, rookie receivers have not performed well — the 48 wide receivers and tight ends surveyed totalled only about three touchdowns and 500 yards their first seasons. And interestingly, wide receivers picked later in the draft actually outperformed the earlier choices. Since 1980, eight rookie wide receivers have scored eight or more touchdowns in their first year, but only one — Cincinnati's Eddie Brown — was a high first-rounder. Five of the eight weren't even first-round picks, most recently Calvin Williams and Fred Barnett.

First-round tight ends tend to do well, averaging four touchdowns their first year. That may not seem like much, but keep in mind only three tight ends in the entire league scored more than four times last year.

Why do wideouts not perform as well as running backs? In recent years, most receivers have been blended into their teams' offense more slowly than running backs. Perhaps one reason is many receivers have left college after their junior years recently. And receivers are usually asked to return kicks and play special teams before breaking into the starting lineup.

Kickers. No big surprise here. If a placekicker wins a roster spot, he'll have the chance to score. However his points can be minimized by a conservative head coach unwilling to take chances on long field goal attempts or pressure kicks. Rookie kickers drafted since 1980 have averaged under 72 points, well below the league average.

WHY ROOKIES DON'T DO WELL

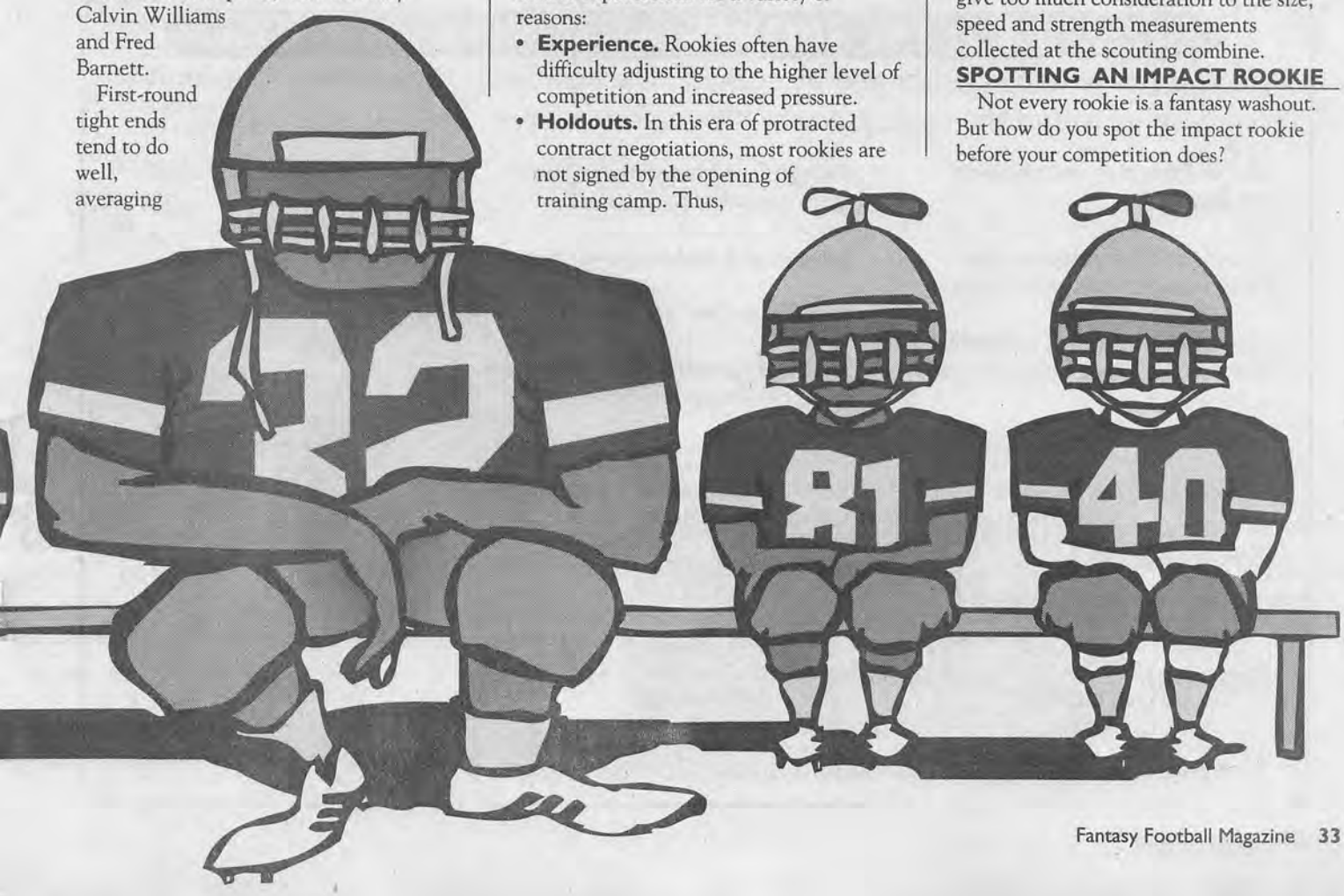
Rookies usually fail to meet performance expectations for a variety of reasons:

- **Experience.** Rookies often have difficulty adjusting to the higher level of competition and increased pressure.
- **Holdouts.** In this era of protracted contract negotiations, most rookies are not signed by the opening of training camp. Thus, they miss essential preparation time — both physically and mentally.
- **Injuries.** Rookies are often plagued by nagging injuries due in large part to the lost training and conditioning caused by holdouts.
- **The "Project" Rookie.** Many rookies aren't expected to be full-time players immediately, especially quarterbacks and players drafted by playoff-type teams. Many coaches are content to have rookies sit behind veterans for one or more seasons before giving them a chance to play.

Predicting rookie performance is difficult because college player are scouted at vastly different levels of competition. Jerry Rice was only the third wide receiver drafted in 1985 because he came from obscure Mississippi Valley State. Additionally, many players compete collegiately in unconventional offenses like the wishbone, option and run-and-shoot. Scouts end up so unsure of players' abilities themselves that they eventually give too much consideration to the size, speed and strength measurements collected at the scouting combine.

SPOTTING AN IMPACT ROOKIE

Not every rookie is a fantasy washout. But how do you spot the impact rookie before your competition does?



Rookies perform well for a few reasons. Often the rookies who succeed "sneak-up" on the rest of the league since defenses aren't familiar with their speed, quickness and toughness. This was true, for example, when Eric Dickerson, Marcus Allen, and Ickey Woods entered the league. Some other characteristics of the successful rookie:

- **He's in camp:** It helps a player tremendously if he attends the team's training camp — even the spring mini-camps. Holdout players are not only slow to pick up the offense, they also tend to get injured because they're not in top shape.
- **He's filling a hole.** Rookies get a chance to play right away if the team doesn't have a quality veteran. For example, Tony Smith will get a chance to play right away in Atlanta, but he would never get on the field if he had been drafted by Detroit or Dallas.
- **He's on a good team.** It helps a rookie tremendously if he is entering an established offensive system run by a good coaching staff.

EVALUATION STRATEGIES

When evaluating rookies in the preseason, ask yourself the following questions:

- **What** kind of offense is he entering? Is it an established offense with defined roles? Or is it a new system run by a new coaching staff? What will his role be?
- **Why** was he drafted? Did the previous starter retire or suffer a significant injury? Or will the incumbent play a lesser role for another reason? Are there other rookies and free agents he will compete with for playing time?
- **When** does he sign? Is he in camp with no significant holdout?
- **Where** does he stand in preseason? Is he playing with the first team in exhibition games? Or riding the pine?
- **How** good is the team he plays for? Is it a playoff contender? What are the team's weaknesses?

These questions help to clarify the context of the situation and assist in making pre-draft evaluations.

In 1991, there were several productive rookies who could have been spotted using the questions above. Ricky Ervins and Nick Bell entered almost ideal situations, while Tim Barnett and Greg Lewis found roles. Leonard Russell was an excellent fit for the Patriots, who wanted to establish a ball-control offense. He was also helped by the holdout of veteran John Stephens.

CARRY-OVER LEAGUES

Many leagues carry over players from year to year. In these leagues, owners can keep one, two, or more players on their rosters from the previous season. In this format, rookies projecting as franchise-caliber players require additional, more long-term consideration.

Most coaches, however, cannot afford a roster spot to "hold" a rookie for subsequent seasons and wait for his development. It's just too risky to gamble the present for the future.

As with other players, rookies must be evaluated constantly during the season. It's important to understand their roles and the circumstances that will contribute to their fantasy production in the future. These factors can change from game-to-game and season-to-season. Thus, coaches shouldn't go out on a limb and get a rookie just to be able to carry him into the next season until they can collect enough information about how he fits into the team's future.

A SOPHOMORE JINX?

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jinx," whereby a phenomenal rookie sputters his second season. While this may be true in baseball, the opposite usually occurs in football.

Additional analysis of the stats shows 64 percent of players improve during their second seasons. Quarterbacks averaged an additional 1,315 yards passing and seven touchdowns in their second seasons, and running backs and wide receivers averaged an extra three touchdowns.

Therefore, maybe the new players to watch this season aren't the rookies but the draft choices from 1991. So keep an eye on guys like Bell, Russell, Ervins, Barnett, Lawrence Dawsey and Randal Hill. They could be big scorers.

In summary, read the rookie hype but don't get hyped! Picking the rookie gem and getting him to contribute to your fantasy team can be the difference between winning and losing. All it requires is skill, strategy, and a little luck.

Paul S. Barnes is the author of B2 Analytical Services' book, How To Win At Fantasy Football 1992.

This year's top rookies

1. **WR Carl Pickens, Bengals Tennesee (2nd round, 31st pick)**
   He'll push Tim McGee for a starting spot right away; a second-round steal with big-play abilities.
2. **PK Jason Hanson, Lions Washington St. (2,56)**
   Eddie Murray was waived, so Hanson needs only to beat out Rich Andrews for the placekicking job. The former WSU Cougar has a cannon for a leg.
3. **RB Tony Smith, Falcons Southern Mississippi (1,19)**
   Gives the Atlanta offense added dimension of size and speed in the backfield.
4. **RB Tommy Vardell, Browns Stanford (1,9)**
   Bill Belichick gets his running back, but Cleveland has a crowded backfield.
5. **RB Vaughn Dunbar, Saints Indiana (1,21)**
   He's the best, healthiest back on the New Orleans roster.
6. **TE Derek Brown, Giants Notre Dame (1,14)**
   People compare him to another Irish tight end who played for New York — Mark Bavaro — but it's an entirely different team now.
7. **RB Siran Stacy, Eagles Alabama (2,48)**
   A blue-chipper whose stock fell after a knee injury his junior year; should start.
8. **TE Johnny Mitchell, Jets Nebraska (1,15)**
   Excellent talent and fits a need area. Jet offense is on the rise.
9. **WR Desmond Howard, Redskins Michigan (1,4)**
   Will start slowly on special teams; may take Rickey Sanders' spot later.
10. **WR Robert Brooks, Packers South Carolina (3, 62)**
    John Taylor-type receiver to play opposite Sterling Sharpe in the new Packer offense.
11. **RB Amp Lee, 49ers Florida St. (2,45)**
    He's the combo of runner/receiver San Francisco needs.
12. **WR Mario Bailey, Oilers Washington (6,182)**
    Oilers must rebuild receiving corps; also watch Corey Harris.
13. **Rodney Culver, Colts Notre Dame (4, 85)**
    Indianapolis needs healthy backs, especially at the goal line.
14. **Patrick Rowe, Browns San Diego St. (2,52)**
    Cleveland needs a receiver who can stretch defenses.

—Paul S. Barnes

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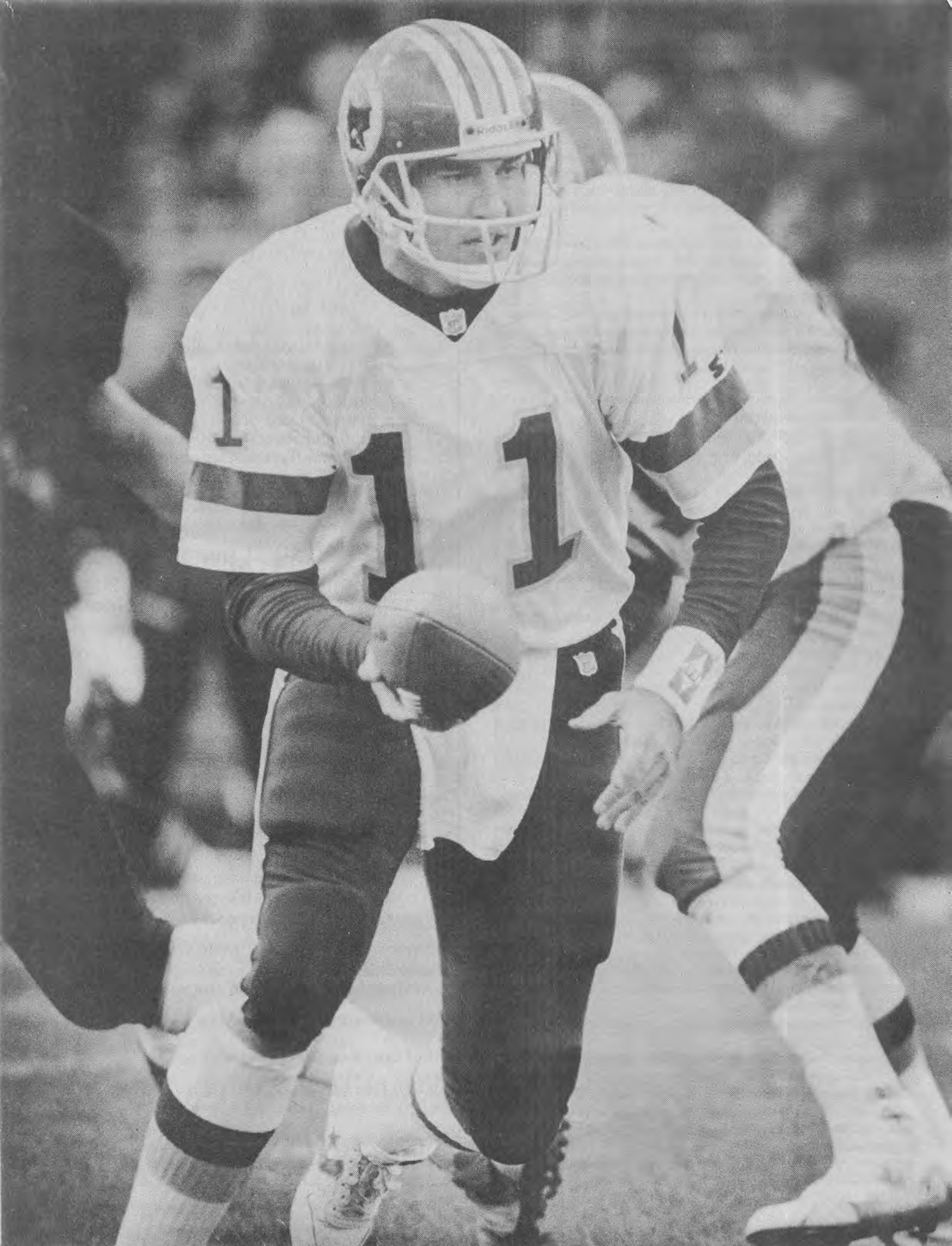
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It's only appropriate that in a year when the United States was in its worst recession since the Great Depression, the NFL had a scoring recession.

NFL points — especially on touchdown passes — were way down last year. NFL passers combined for only 511 scoring passes — 71 below the average of the previous five years. In 1987, there were 611 touchdown passes.

Fantasy coaches felt the squeeze, especially when staple scorers Randall Cunningham and Joe Montana were both lost for the season less than one hour into the opening games. For the first time since the nine-game strike season of 1982, only five quarterbacks were able to throw 20 or more touchdown passes.

Even though quarterbacks were at a premium last year, we're recommending that you probably shouldn't take one until the second round. That's because we don't see a world of difference between the top seven quarterbacks on the board. Marino, Montana or Cunningham as a second-round pick, we feel, is a better value than Rypien or Kelly as a first rounder.

We're advocating that the first four players drafted should be running backs Barry Sanders, Emmitt Smith and Thurman Thomas, and wide receiver Jerry Rice. If you get one of these guys in the first round and one of the top seven quarterbacks in the second, you're on your way to a fantasy championship.

Quarterbacks

1 If you select Washington's **Mark Rypien** in your fantasy draft, you're buying access into the best quartet of wide receivers in the history of pro football. Think about it. Whenever Gary Clark, Art Monk, Ricky Sanders or rookie Desmond Howard catches a touchdown pass, you'll be getting a piece of the action. What are the chances of those four guys scoring fewer than about 25 times?

The Super Bowl MVP throws the deep ball as well as anyone in the league. Last year, six of his 28 touchdown passes were bombs from beyond 50 yards. It doesn't hurt that he can stand in the pocket behind the best offensive line in football either. Rypien was sacked only seven times last year — and over half of those came in the two games against Philadelphia. "The way they protect him, he doesn't even have to shower after the game," former Ram coach John Robinson said.

Jim Kelly came out of the gate fast last year, throwing eight touchdown passes in his first two games. But over the final 15 weeks of the season, the Redskins' sixth-year quarterback was the highest-scoring fantasy quarterback.

Not a bad year for a guy who was called "a bloody idiot" by team owner Jack Kent Cooke during his holdout last August. Rypien signed a one-year deal worth a mild $1.5 million because he anticipated a breakthrough year. After Rypien's critical interceptions against San Francisco in the playoffs the previous year, the Redskins were prepared to let Stan Humphries compete for the job.

"I could see the writing on the wall," Rypien said during Super Bowl week. "The patience was over. It was either step up or step out."

2 The scoring recession didn't affect **Jim Kelly** or Buffalo's no-huddle offense. In a year when the rest of the teams in the NFL were averaging 17 touchdown passes, the Bills put up a league-high 39 — nine more than Washington or Atlanta.

◀ **Mark Rypien.**

Kelly, who skipped the final game, led the league with 33 scoring strikes. Only seven NFL quarterbacks had even half that total. Since coach Marv Levy gave Kelly the green light to operate the no-huddle offense halfway through the 1990 season, the former University of Miami star has launched 64 TDs in 31 starts.

So how come he's not our No. 1 quarterback?

Buffalo plays an easier schedule than Washington, but the Bills' receiving corps doesn't compare with the Posse. After Andre Reed, the only proven wideout is James Lofton — and he's 36 years old. What happens if he goes down with an injury?

The no-huddle offense was also less effective as the season wore on. Kelly had games with five and six touchdown passes against Cincinnati and Pittsburgh. That won't happen again.

And there's the worry that teams are beginning to figure out how to combat the no-huddle. Denver and Washington bottled up Kelly in the final two games. Kelly threw 13 interceptions in 19 games in 1990. Last season he was picked off 26 times, including a record-tying four in the Super Bowl. It's enough to push Kelly down to the second-best quarterback and No. 6 player overall.

3 Speaking of quarterbacks who threw four interceptions against Washington in their final games... Atlanta's **Chris Miller** should nonetheless also have a banner year. Last year he was the second-hottest quarterback in the NFL during the final 11 weeks after Jerry Glanville went to the Red Gun offense full time.

The former Oregon Duck —like his former Pac-10 rival Rypien — has an incredible arsenal of receiving weapons at his disposal, including All-Pro Andre Rison and speedy Michael Haynes, who scored 13 touchdowns from an average of 44 yards.

Our biggest concern with Miller is that he's missed at least one game in each of his four seasons as the starter. He also tossed 18 interceptions last year. But those are nit-picky problems. Remember, this is a team that scores a league-high 83 percent of its touchdowns through the air.

"You're going to see some big Warren Moon-type numbers coming out of that No. 12," ESPN analyst Joe Theismann says.

4 One player that Theismann can guarantee will put up Warren Moon-type numbers is **Warren Moon** himself. Because the Oiler quarterback had a down year last season (23 touchdown passes), he could one of the big steals in fantasy drafts this year.

The Moonraker became the first quarterback in league history to average over 40 passes a game last year. The biggest reason he didn't throw more touchdown passes was the Oilers' tough schedule — Moon tossed only one TD in four games against the Redskins, Eagles, Giants and Cowboys. He had at least one scoring pass in each of the other 12 games.

This year the NFC East is gone and Houston plays one of the softest schedules in the league. The only reason we rate Moon behind Miller is that he's 36 years old and the Oilers need to find an inside slot receiver to replace Drew Hill, who was lost to Atlanta in Plan B.

"It made me sick to my stomach when I heard Drew was gone," Moon said. "We had a lot of good receivers, but Drew was the one defenses concentrated on."

5 When you look at everything **Dan Marino** has accomplished, it's easy to forget how young he is. He's entering his 10th NFL season, but the Magic Man is only 30 years old.

That's one month older than Steve Young. One year older than Mark Rypien. A year and a half older than Randall Cunningham. And two years older than Vinny Testaverde. He just seems older because of all his NFL records.

The 27th pick of the celebrated 1983 draft threw more than 20 touchdown passes for a record ninth time last season. He also went over 3,000 yards for a record eighth straight year. And there's little worry about the Dolphin quarterback getting hurt because he doesn't scramble often. Marino has started at quarterback a record 125 straight games.

Marino threw 17 scoring strikes in the second half of the season. The last time he was that hot was 1986, when he led the pros with 44 touchdown passes. The Dolphins added some depth to their receiving corps in the offseason, which is a plus considering the age of the Marks Brothers, who are a combined 64 years old.

◀ **Dan Marino.**

6 Looking back on **Joe Montana's** career, it's hard to believe there were three quarterbacks drafted before him in 1979. Cincinnati took Jack Thompson, the Giants took Phil Simms, and the Chiefs took Steve Fuller. A lot of NFL coaches and general managers are still wondering how they let that happen.

Many fantasy coaches could be kicking themselves and saying the same thing after this year if they let Montana slide too far in their drafts. Montana finished in the top four in fantasy points four straight years prior to missing last season with his elbow injury. Remember, this is a guy who's thrown 22 touchdown passes and only one interception in his last eight playoff games.

There are a couple of reasons we don't rate him higher. First of all, at 36, Montana is the oldest starting quarterback in the league. One solid sack and his career could be through.

In addition, Montana didn't produce huge numbers for fantasy coaches in 1990. He had the one six-touchdown game against Atlanta, but in the second half of the season he threw only seven touchdown passes. He was also intercepted a career-high 16 times. Hardly Montana-like numbers.

7 **Randall Cunningham's** knee injury is far more serious than Montana's elbow injury because most of what the Eagle quarterback was able to accomplish in his four years as a starter came from his ability to scramble.

Cunningham ran for five touchdowns and almost 1,000 yards in 1990, and that threat of him being able to run was one of the big reasons he was able to throw 30 scoring passes. Now, in the best-case scenario, his scrambling will probably be more on par with a John Elway's. He'll be able to buy himself some time, but he won't be taking off on a 52-yard touchdown run — like he did against New England in 1990.

Cunningham himself admits that he'll have to rely on his arm more for the rest of his career. His 40-yard dash time was a 4.8 at the Eagles' minicamp in May; down from a 4.4 before the injury. "My knee will never be what it was," he said.

However, Cunningham may just be talking down expectations. With 10 or so players off the board, he's an appropriate gamble.

8 Kansas City has produced 42 passing touchdowns in the last two seasons, eighth in the NFL. Now they've acquired a superior quarterback to Steve DeBerg in former Seahawk **Dave Krieg.** The result could be some surprising fantasy numbers.

Krieg, at 33, can still play. Last year, he was able to compete a league-high 65.6 percent of his passes and throw 11 TD passes in 10 games playing behind Seattle's lousy offensive line. Just think how he'll perform when he has the luxury of the Chiefs' power running game to keep defenses out of his face.

One thing's for sure: Krieg will throw more touchdown passes than all the quarterbacks trying to fill his shoes in Seattle.

"Dave Krieg will be perfect for Kansas City's offense," says former Seahawk coach Chuck Knox. "I think that was a very wise choice by Carl Peterson and Marty Schottenheimer."

9 Dallas plays a hard schedule, but **Troy Aikman** is surrounded by too much talent to be ignored for long on draft day.

The Cowboys have an All-Pro wide receiver (Michael Irvin), a Pro Bowl tight end (Jay Novacek) and a couple of young wideouts waiting to emerge (Alvin Harper and second-rounder Jimmy Smith). It doesn't hurt to have a back like Emmitt Smith to keep defenses honest, either.

Jimmy Johnson has brought Aikman along slowly thus far. The No. 1 pick of the 1989 draft has thrown only 11 touchdown passes in each of the last two years. He'll certainly throw more this season, and it may be his big breakthrough year.

Even though Steve Beuerlein led the team on a six-game win streak

after Aikman got injured, he's a non-factor. There is only one starting quarterback in Dallas, and he went to school at UCLA — not Notre Dame.

10 Never in the six-year history of this magazine has a backup player been ranked in the top 10 at any position. But **Steve Young** is more valuable than the 19 starting quarterbacks not listed in the top 10 because he's capable of carrying a fantasy franchise to a championship should anything happen to the aging and undersized Montana.

Think about it. If Montana's elbow flares up in the final preseason game or he gets slammed into the turf in the opener, you've probably got the No. 1 fantasy quarterback — a player who could have been a top five overall selection if Montana had retired in the offseason. Last year, Young was by far more productive than either Jim Kelly or Mark Rypien prior to going down with a knee injury in week nine against the Falcons.

The combined stats of Young and Steve Bono were better than either Kelly's or Rypien's. With Jerry Rice and John Taylor catching the football, you wonder if John Brodie could come out of retirement and throw 30 touchdown passes.

If you pass on Young in the fifth round or so, you'll probably draft instead a quarterback who's going to average about a touchdown a game — a Jeff George, Bernie Kosar or John Elway. That type of stopgap quarterbacking is always going to be available on the waiver wire throughout the year.

▲ **Jim Kelly.**

OTHER QUALITY PROSPECTS

With guys like Ken Clark and Albert Bentley running the ball, you can be sure about 80 percent of Indianapolis' touchdowns will come through the air. That means that a healthy **Jeff George** should throw at least 16 touchdown passes this season.

The biggest reason the second-year quarterback only tossed 10 touchdowns last year was that three of his offensive linemen missed at least 13 games each. Remember, as a rookie George threw 16 TDs in only 11 games and was a better fantasy quarterback in the second half of the season than either Jim Kelly or Joe Montana. The Colts also have the easiest schedule in the league this year.

New coach Bill Belichick revitalized the career of **Bernie Kosar**. In 1990, the only quarterbacks with five or more starts that Kosar outperformed were Tommy Hodson and Marc Wilson of New England. In the first year of the Belichick rebuilding program, Kosar fired 18 touchdown passes and at one point threw 308 passes without an interception, breaking Bart Starr's record.

Kosar is unlikely to be a huge scorer, however. The Browns receiving corps is inexperienced and No. 1 wide receiver. Webster Slaughter is unsigned and would like to be traded. Kosar also rarely scores a rushing touchdown.

The bottom line with **Jim Everett:** When the Rams win, he's productive, when the Rams lose, he's average at best. Everett led the NFL with 60 TD passes as Los Angeles went 21-11 during the 1988-89 seasons. The past two years, as the Rams have gone 8-24, Everett has only 34 touchdown passes.

Chuck Knox has been a winner wherever he's gone, but this is a stacked division and he's taking over a team without an offensive or defensive line. The Rams — and Everett — could be in for another tough year.

Denver's **John Elway** could be a better fantasy quarterback if he were more effective when the Broncos get inside the 20-yard line. In the 11 games after opening day, Elway's Red Zone stats were 12-of-42, with no touchdown passes. He's at his best when he calls his own number — Elway ran for six touchdowns last year.

At this point in his career, the 10th-year vet is somewhat of a medical question mark after shoulder surgery in the offseason. Even when healthy, Elway hasn't been a great fantasy quarterback. He hasn't thrown 20 touchdown passes in a season since 1985.

Chicago's **Jim Harbaugh**, like Elway, will help his fantasy cause with some rushing touchdowns (six in the last two years). But also like the Denver quarterback, his team isn't blessed with any real talent at wide receiver.

Harbaugh tossed 15 touchdown passes and ran for two scores last year, good enough to rank ninth overall among quarterbacks. The Bears' schedule isn't particularly challenging, so another top 10 finish is a possibility.

With the addition of explosive Carl Pickens, Cincinnati has a group of receivers that ranks as one of the top five in the league. But we're still not convinced **Boomer Esiason** will come back to match the kind of numbers he posted from 1988 to 1990, when he averaged 27 TD passes a year.

Esiason has thrown an NFL-high 38 interceptions the last two years, and the Bengals probably don't have the talent to escape the AFC Central basement. By December, the Riverfront boo birds may be calling for rookie David Klingler.

Like Esiason, the Saints' **Bobby Hebert** was bothered by a sore shoulder last year. Offseason exploratory surgery revealed the Cajun Cannon had a bruised rotator cuff.

In three years of action since 1988 (he sat out the 1990 season), Hebert has shown that he's capable of throwing a little better than a touchdown a game in the Saints' run-oriented offense. So, if healthy, look for Hebert to toss 18 or 20 touchdowns.

THE BEST OF THE REST

Rodney Peete, Detroit. His running skills make him a potentially dangerous performer — he ran for six TDs in 11 starts in 1990 — but because of injury, Peete hasn't played in 27 of the Lions' last 50 games.

Rich Gannon, Minnesota. If he had played 16 games last year,

Gannon would have been among the top-10 scoring quarterbacks. However, the Vikings are an aging team that will pay off the Herschel Walker trade for the next few years with some losing seasons.

John Friesz, San Diego. New coach Bobby Ross will expect Friesz to throw more in his second season as a starter. The Chargers, along with Indianapolis, play the league's easiest schedule, but have a limited set of receivers.

Hugh Millen, New England. Two thirds of his TD passes were from beyond 30 yards last year. Now he just needs to find a way to increase on his total of nine. He has some decent receivers to work with, so the potential is there.

Vinny Testaverde, Tampa Bay. It's Vinny's make-or-break year. He's got some okay talent around him and Tampa plays an easy schedule, but the Bucs hedged their bets by taking two quarterbacks in the draft.

Neil O'Donnell, Pittsburgh. The Steelers have thrown 40 touchdown passes over the last two years, but that number will probably decline as the team converts to a ball-control running attack. O'Donnell gets the nod over unsigned Bubby Brister, whose knee surgery may keep him out of camp.

Jeff Hostetler, Giants. The Hoss avoided turnovers in his first year as a starter but threw only five touchdown passes in his 12 starts. The Giants took a tight end in the draft, but ignored their needs at wide receiver.

Jay Schroeder, Raiders. It looked like he was starting to turn the corner in 1990 when he threw 19 TD passes and only nine interceptions. After throwing more interceptions (16) than touchdown passes (15) last year, he's definitely just the stopgap solution.

Don Majkowski, Green Bay. A decent sleeper pick. He's been both horrible and injury prone the past two years but was the highest-scoring fantasy quarterback along with Joe Montana in 1989. He threw 27 touchdown passes and ran for five TDs that year.

Steve Bono, San Francisco. If Steve Young is traded, Bono becomes a top 15-type quarterback. He showed a Montana-like grasp of the 49er system by throwing nine touchdown passes in his final three starts. He also led San Francisco on a five-game win streak.

Browning Nagle, Jets. Bruce Coslet hopes his second-year quarterback can beat out Ken O'Brien, but the former Louisville star looked awful at times during spring drills. Expectations should never be too high for a first-year starter. The Jets do have nice receivers, though.

Timm Rosenbach, Phoenix. A run/pass combination who was fourth in fantasy points during the final eight games of the '90 season. A major question mark after a serious knee injury, though, and the Cardinals will be huge underdogs in 11 of their 16 games.

UNMENTIONABLE

Bubby Brister, Pittsburgh. If Brister sticks to his initial vow that he's not coming to camp unless he's guaranteed the starting job, then he won't be coming to camp. The only time Steeler fans cheer him is when he's injured.

Erik Kramer, Detroit. The former CFLer probably won't be the starter for the Lions, although Rodney Peete never lasts for long.

Dan McGwire, Seattle. If he beats out Kelly Stouffer, he's a first-year starter surrounded by limited talent in an offense that's new to everyone. Marino and Moon's passing records are safe.

Frank Reich, Buffalo. A veteran backup who's capable of good numbers if Kelly goes down.

Cody Carlson, Houston. A veteran backup who's capable of good numbers if Moon goes down.

Mike Tomczak, Green Bay. The former Bear and Dan Marino were the only quarterbacks to score in each of the last eight games. Has a chance of beating out Majkowski.

Steve Walsh, New Orleans. If Hebert's shoulder continues to give him problems, the 1989 first rounder could steal the starting job.

Steve Beuerlein, Dallas. Led Dallas on a six-game win streak that ended in the Silverdome, but Troy Aikman will be the Cowboy starter.

Phil Simms, N.Y. Giants. Coach Ray Handley stated clearly the day after the season that Hostetler will be the '92 starter.

Mark Vlasic, Kansas City. Has only an outside chance of winning the No. 1 job away from Dave Krieg.

Ken O'Brien, N.Y. Jets. Even though he started 16 games for a playoff team, O'Brien didn't throw a TD pass in half his games.

Todd Marinovich, L.A. Raiders. Already on probation for a cocaine-possession charge, Marinovich reportedly flunked a drug test in January. If so, two more positive tests and he's out of the league.

Kelly Stouffer, Seattle. Seahawk fans will realize how good Dave Krieg was when Stouffer and McGwire operate the team's new "stretch-the-field" offense.

Cary Conklin, Washington. A potentially productive quarterback if Mark Rypien goes down — but Rypien was sacked only seven times last year.

Jim McMahon, Philadelphia. Always a 50-50 bet that he'll make it through a game. He hurt himself while running untouched out of bounds last year.

Chris Chandler, Phoenix. How good can a quarterback be if he was cut by Tampa Bay?

◀ **Jim Harbaugh.**

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Running Backs

Running backs are the key elements for success in fantasy drafts this year — because there are so few of them.

There's a bundle of good quarterbacks and wide receivers available for fantasy coaches to pick. At those positions, superstar-caliber players will last until the second and third rounds. But that's not the case at running back.

We see only three franchise-type running backs available — Barry Sanders, Emmitt Smith and Thurman Thomas. A few other guys, Rodney Hampton, Neal Anderson and Lorenzo White, loom as pretty good backs before the talent level really drops off.

Perhaps your No. 1 priority on fantasy draft day should be to secure the services of one of these five backs. That's why we're suggesting that Sanders, Smith and Thomas should be among the top four overall selections.

If you get one of the Big Three in the first round, you're in good shape to pick up a Randall Cunningham or Joe Montana at quarterback in the second round and a John Taylor or Michael Irvin at wide receiver in the third. Not a bad base to build from.

If you miss out on the Big Three, you'll probably have the option to take one of the best quarterbacks — maybe Mark Rypien or Jim Kelly — in the first round, then grab Hampton, Anderson or White in the second and hopefully get Taylor or Irvin in the third. Also a good start for a fantasy franchise.

If you ignore our advice and go for a quarterback and a wide receiver in the first two rounds, you'll probably be looking at somebody like Marion Butts or Reggie Cobb as your lead running back. Backs like that aren't bad players, but they're better suited to a second-back role.

1 Detroit's **Barry Sanders** has been the most productive running back in the NFL since coming into the league in 1989. Now Lion coach Wayne Fontes is taking steps to ensure it stays that way.

The 1988 Heisman Trophy winner rushed for a career-high 1,548 yards and scored a league-leading 17 touchdowns last year, but he had problems against the league's better defenses. San Francisco limited him to 26 yards, Chicago held him under 70 yards four straight games, and Washington allowed him only 44 yards in the NFC title game.

Some teams are getting away with ganging up on Sanders because Detroit's passing game isn't anything special. In seven games against teams with winning records last year, Sanders averaged 61 yards and a less than a half a touchdown per game. In Detroit's other 11 games, Sanders averaged 112 yards and 1.4 touchdowns per game.

To stop teams from cheating on Sanders, Fontes hired former Charger coach Dan Henning as an assistant. Henning's teams weren't winners in San Diego, but they were always able to run the ball.

During Henning's final two years, San Diego running backs rushed for an NFL-high 4,504 yards and averaged an NFL-high 4.8 yards per carry, even though first-year starters Billy Joe Tolliver and John Friesz were the quarterbacks. Fontes granted Henning's first wish by bringing in three tight ends.

If Henning's modifications don't help, Fontes will merely switch back to the standard run-and-shoot formation that Sanders used to gain over 1,500 yards. If the tight ends help Sanders, who knows how far he could run this year? 1,800 yards? 1,900?

Barring injury, Sanders is certain to have another huge year in the Motor City. He sure makes Rodney Peete's job fun.

"Fifteen or 20 years from now, I'm going to look back and treasure these moments of handing the ball off to Barry," Peete said after Sanders smoked Tampa Bay with 160 yards and three touchdowns. "He's a special, special running back."

2 To get an idea of how young **Emmitt Smith** is, consider that if he had redshirted a year at Florida and not come out after his junior season, Smith would have been playing against Notre Dame in the Sugar Bowl on Jan. 1.

Think the Colts would have liked to use one of their two No. 1's on the 23-year-old?

The NFL's youngest starter last year led the league with 1,563 yards rushing and scored 13 touchdowns. He's been the most productive back short of Sanders the last season and a half, scoring 20 times in his last 21 games.

One of the knocks on Smith coming out of college was his lack of great speed. However, he scored on jaunts of 75 and 60 yards last year. Smith's spin moves and elusiveness bring back memories of Tony Dorsett in Texas Stadium. Smith came within 83 yards of T.D.'s club record last season. "It makes me feel good when people compare him to me," Dorsett says.

We thought about ranking Thurman Thomas ahead of Smith because of Dallas' tough schedule — they play the Eagles, Redskins and Giants twice and also have to play the Broncos and Raiders on the road. However, we added up the rushing touchdowns allowed by all the opponents on both teams' schedules and didn't get the results we expected. Dallas' opponents allowed one fewer touchdown than Buffalo's last year. No big deal.

Smith did have a little problem with fumbles last year, coughing it up seven times in the final seven games, but that's nothing major. What's Jimmy Johnson going to do, bench him?

The only legitimate concern is the size of Smith's workload. He led the NFL with 414 combined attempts and receptions. That's a lot of hits for a 203-pound back. "If you're going to be carrying the ball 32 times a week, you can't last long," Smith himself says.

3 **Thurman Thomas** led all running backs with a 4.9 yard rushing average and 62 receptions. He also ran for a career-high 1,407 yards and scored 12-plus touchdowns for the third straight year.

So why does he come across as the next Eric Dickerson?

During Super Bowl week, Thomas skipped a press conference because he felt Jim Kelly and Bruce Smith were getting too much pub. Then, a week after the game, he ripped into the coaching staff publicly for not using him enough. "If I had touched the ball a lot more, we would have had a great chance to win the football game," he said.

It has to be growing tiresome for his teammates — especially his year-long media campaign to have the world admit he's a better running back than Barry Sanders. "Joe Montana, he's the best quarterback in the league," Thomas starts off, "Jerry Rice, he's the best wide receiver in the league. But me, I've got to share my credentials with people like Barry and Neal Anderson."

The difference between Sanders and Thomas is that Sanders would

◀ **Barry Sanders.**

be a 1,000-yard rusher for any of the NFL's 28 teams. Put Thomas in a Packer or Colt uniform and you'd never hear from him again. Sanders probably wouldn't lose his helmet at the Super Bowl, either.

Thomas has been able to back up most of his boasts, though. In four years in the league, he has averaged over 1,200 yards rushing and 500 yards receiving annually. The only negative on him is that the Bills usually don't use him in short-yardage situations. Thomas has only scored two of the team's 13 1-yard touchdown runs the last two years.

4 The last time the Giants didn't have a running back score 10 or more touchdowns was 1988. That's one of the reasons we rank rising star **Rodney Hampton** just a shade behind the Big Three.

Hampton emerged in his second season to run for 1,059 yards and 10 touchdowns, even though he didn't play in the first two games. As O.J. Anderson and Joe Morris have done in years past, Hampton scored week-in and week-out to help steer fantasy franchises to the playoffs.

▲ **Thurman Thomas.**

"Rodney is going to be great," says Anderson, who was phased out last year and probably won't make the team. "He can be as good as he wants to be."

It certainly doesn't hurt to run behind the Giants' offensive line. Right now everyone's lauding Washington's Hogs. They were saying the same things about New York's offensive line a year ago. All those guys are still around — and they're still young.

When the Giants get their run-offense clicking, they can move the ball on any team in the league. Just ask Houston. The Oilers, who needed to win in New York to clinch the homefield advantage for the playoffs, saw Hampton blast through gapping holes for 140 yards and a touchdown.

The only worry about the former Georgia star is that he's tended to be slowed by injuries at times during his college and pro careers. He should be a solid producer, however. There's no way to justify him not being among the top 20 players selected in every draft.

5 Last year Chicago's **Neal Anderson** was hurt. But this year, he'll put the hurt on fantasy coaches who let him slide too far in their drafts.

Anderson was slowed by a hamstring injury for most of last year, and as a result he had his worst season since succeeding Walter Payton as the Bear's tailback in 1988.

The former Florida Gator rushed for a mild 747 yards, averaged a career-low 3.6 yards per carry and scored nine touchdowns. He also failed to score on a 50-yard touchdown for the first time since his rookie year. Not the kind of numbers you expect from a back with three straight 1,000-yard seasons and 40 TDs since 1988.

What's most worrisome about Anderson is that he's been bothered by injuries late in the season in each of the past four years. It's been his hamstring the past two seasons. In 1990, Anderson scored only once in the final nine games. Last year, he ran for only 134 yards in the final seven games.

But fantasy coaches thinking of passing on Anderson need to remember what they get when he's healthy. This is a back who'll average a touchdown per game when he's 100 percent. The Bears also play a pretty easy schedule.

You have to downgrade Anderson some because of his injuries, but it's too early to write his obituary. Anderson turns 28 three weeks before the start of the season.

6 A holdout lasting a week into the regular season prevented **Lorenzo White** from being a big touchdown scorer last season. The Oilers punished the 1988 first-rounder by using him in a reserve role the entire regular season.

"It cost me my starting job," says White, who finally started in the two playoff games and ran for 144 yards on 34 carries.

Houston let tiny Allen Pinkett do most of the ball carrying in the regular season, and he compiled 720 yards and 10 touchdowns. But the veteran was shipped to New Orleans in the offseason, leaving White alone in Houston's one-back offense.

If White remains healthy, he should run for about 850 yards and 12 touchdowns. When Pinkett was getting about 25 percent of the playing time in 1990, White had 702 yards rushing and 12 scores.

7 Could you blame San Diego's **Marion Butts** for holding out last year? He rumbles for an AFC-high 1,225 yards (he would have won the rushing title if he hadn't missed the last two games) and is named to the Pro Bowl, but he's still making seventh-round money.

It's got to hurt Butts when he hears about all the big contracts of the runners picked before him in the 1989 draft — guys like Tim Worley, Eric Metcalf, Cleveland Gary and Sammie Smith, who started in front of Butts at Florida State. Those four first rounders' *combined* rushing yardage fell short of Butts' total last year.

The 6-foot-1, 250 pounder had an off year after his holdout — 834 yards and seven touchdowns — but was voted to the Pro Bowl anyway. He was the AFC's best player in the game, smashing through tackles for 63 yards on 12 carries.

Butts' touchdown numbers could be held down by Rod Bernstine, who started most of last year and was a favorite down the stretch in short-yardage situations. There's a new coaching staff in town, however, and Bernstine was working out at H-back in the spring minicamp.

The team is moving to a two-back offense and wants to involve 1990 second-rounder Eric Bieniemy.

8 The Redskins' **Ricky Ervins** was the third-highest scoring running back on his own team last year, but he made so many big plays that it's a certainty his role in the offense will be greatly expanded.

In the final 10 games last year, Ervins actually outgained team rushing leader Earnest Byner on the ground. Coach Joe Gibbs showed his confidence in his third-rounder in the playoffs, when he let the Southern Cal rookie carry the ball 23 times for 104 yards and a touchdown in the win over Atlanta.

In a backup role in the Super Bowl, Ervins zipped for 72 yards on just 13 carries against the Bills. Considering that Byner and Gerald Riggs have a combined 18 years of NFL experience, Ervins could be in for a thousand-yard type season.

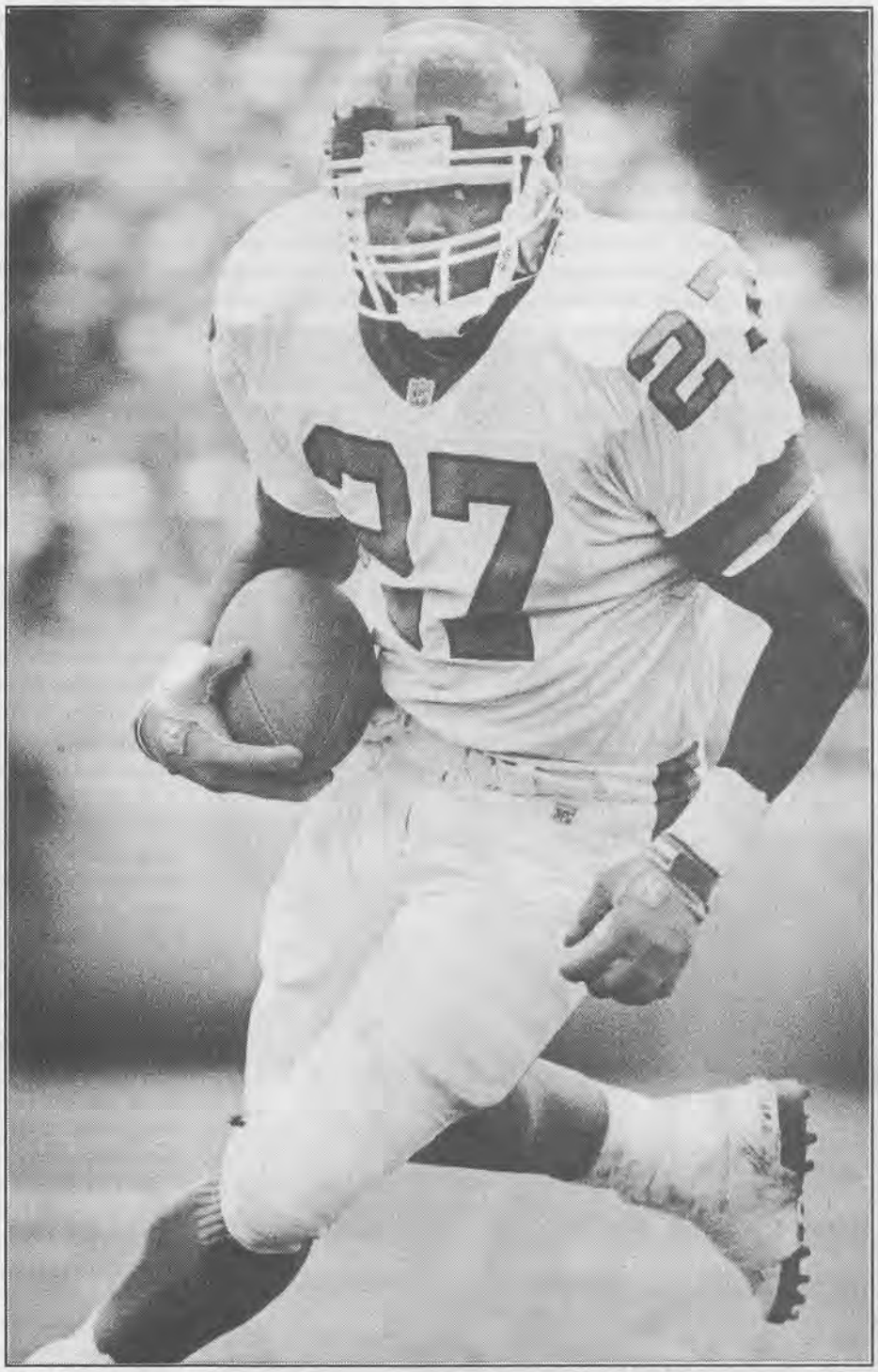
If Joe Bugel is an accurate judge of talent, Ervins will be in the Pro Bowl for years. "Ervins is Emmitt Smith, but more elusive," the Phoenix coach says.

9 Tampa Bay's **Reggie Cobb** came on as strong as anybody last year. In the final eight games of the season he outrushed every back in the league except the Big Three of Sanders, Smith and Thomas. Considering that the Bucs play the easiest schedule in the NFC this year, he has to be considered as a potential 1,000-yard back.

Cobb, who was kicked off the Tennessee team his junior year, started putting up big numbers after he was paired with big rookie fullback Robert Wilson. In the final eight games, he ran for 553 yards and six touchdowns. More impressive, he averaged 4.4 yards a carry in those games — even though defenses knew they could concentrate on the running game as the Bucs had the league's worst passing attack.

Don't be misled by Cobb's poor rushing average his rookie year. He averaged only 3.2 yards per carry because he was playing out of position at fullback.

The 215-pounder is appealing to fantasy coaches because he's basically the only thing the Bucs have on the ground — especially for between-the-tackles stuff. And new coach Sam Wyche showed with Ickey Woods in Cincinnati that he likes to feature one back on short-yardage stuff.



▲ **Rodney Hampton.**

10 Everybody thought the Jets were getting a high-scoring running back in 1990 when they used the second pick of the draft on Blair Thomas. Well, a high-scoring back emerged for the Jets that year, but he's from Alabama State, not Penn State. Free agent pickup **Brad Baxter,** who spent the 1989 season on the practice roster, gets the call when New York's on the 1-yard line.

Last year, Baxter tied Emerson Boozer's and Johnny Hector's team record with 11 rushing touchdowns. All came from inside 4 yards of the end zone.

The Jets are one of the league's underrated rushing teams. Their ground game was powerful enough last year that they ran more offensive plays than any team in the league. On the ground they finished fifth in yards and scored 17 times.

Thomas gets more carries, but Baxter is an integral part of the offense. The starting fullback had a devilish 666 yards rushing last year. Most important, because he's 40 pounds heavier than Thomas, Baxter is the designated short-yardage back.

There were rumors circulating around in May that the Jets might make a move for Herschel Walker. If they were to sign Walker, dump Baxter to 35th and elevate Walker to a top 20 position.

OTHER QUALITY PROSPECTS

Kansas City's **Barry Word** closed the 1991 season with a flurry, running for more yards than any back other than Emmitt Smith during the final four weeks. After Christian Okoye hurt his knee in the Seattle game, Word averaged 107 yards a game and scored three touchdowns. Then in the playoffs, he helped tame the Raiders with 130 yards on 33 carries. Not bad for a backup. "Barry should be starting," LA defensive end Greg Townsend said after the game.

We think Marty Schottenheimer will take Townsend's advice. Word is a more instinctive runner than Okoye, who's 31 years old and the constant subject of trade rumors. The only reason Word didn't play a stronger role in the Chief offense earlier in the year was he held out. He ran for 1,015 yards and averaged 5.0 yards a pop in 1990.

▲ **Neal Anderson.**

The best of the rookie runners last year was New England's **Leonard Russell.** The Patriots gave him the ball from day one, and the first-rounder responded with 959 yards and four touchdowns. Russell accounted for 65 percent of his team's rushing yards, the highest in the league for any player other than Barry Sanders or Emmitt Smith.

Russell carried the ball 27 times for 106 yards and two touchdowns in a near-upset of Buffalo and later rumbled for 112 yards in a big win over the Jets. The bruising inside runner evokes memories of another 235-pound running back from Arizona State — Gerald Riggs, who had all those productive seasons in Atlanta. Russell has the look of a back who'll be causing AFC East defenses problems for years.

Herschel Walker won't be carrying the ball in Minnesota this year, so **Terry Allen** will be the featured runner behind a pretty good offensive line — the Vikings were fourth in the NFL in rushing touchdowns last year. Allen actually outperformed Walker when he got a chance to play. The second-year back averaged 4.7 yards per carry on his 120 attempts and scored on a 55-yard run against Tampa Bay.

Allen was projected as an early round draft pick until he injured his knee at Clemson. The Vikings spent a ninth-rounder on him and let him spend a year in rehab. Assuming the knee holds up, Allen should be in for a big year. The only reason we don't rate him higher is because he's only carried the ball more than 15 times twice in his brief pro career.

Rookie **Vaughn Dunbar,** if he doesn't hold out, should be the featured guy from day one in New Orleans. On the surface it appears as if the Saints have a wealth of backs, but they don't. There's at least one major flaw with every back on their roster — except Dunbar.

The Indiana rookie isn't a Barry Sanders, but he's a steady running back and he'll play behind a good offensive line. The NFC West champs' hodgepodge committee of running backs produced 16 TDs on the ground last year, so Dunbar could be in for a productive season.

Normally, fantasy football coaches aren't interested in 232-pound rookie fullbacks on draft day, but Cleveland's **Tommy Vardell** is not your usual rookie fullback. He was supposed to be a blocking back for teammate Glyn Milburn at Stanford but ended up running for over 100 yards in eight of 12 games.

Most important for fantasy purposes, Vardell was unstoppable in goal-line situations, scoring 22 times in 12 games. Everyone will know by the end of Cleveland's second game (at home on Monday night against Miami) if the Browns will also use him as their end zone specialist. Our feeling is that they will.

An added bonus with Dunbar and Vardell is that they'll likely come cheap on draft day, since most fantasy coaches will be scared away by the Browns' and Saints' crowded backfield situations. Wait until 25 backs have been drafted and either one is a great value pick.

Gerald Riggs will be a huge scorer for the Redskins — if he makes the team. The 11th-year vet is Joe Gibbs' goal-line specialist, but he carries a price tag of $1.1 million. That's a lot of money to shell out for a part-time player when the team also has Ricky Ervins, Earnest Byner and John Settle available.

None of those backs weigh more than 215 pounds, however, while the 232-pound Riggs is ideally suited for Washington's "Jumbo" set. If opening day comes and Riggs is still on the team, he's a back worth trading for.

Every year in Kansas City **Christian Okoye** and Barry Word take turns on the bench. Word holds out and Okoye scores nine touchdowns in the first 11 games. Okoye hurts his knee and Word scores in each of the final three games. The Nigerian Nightmare won't be a 16-game performer, but he'll give fantasy teams good production in stretches.

With James Brooks gone to Cleveland, Cincinnati's third-year tailback **Harold Green** will get the chance to be a full-time performer. He gained 731 yards and averaged 4.6 a carry last year, even though he was hardly used in seven games. The biggest question mark with Green may be his durability; the former South Carolina Gamecock has allowed injuries to keep him off the field in each of his last four seasons.

The Raiders' **Nick Bell** is from the same mold as a Christian Okoye or a Marion Butts. All he has to do now is show he can stay healthy. The 255-pounder bulled through Kansas City for 107 yards on 20 carries in the playoffs, but he spent most of his rookie season in the trainer's room. The biggest negative is that Art Shell is a strong believer in the running back by committee theory.

THE BEST OF THE REST

Vince Workman, Green Bay. The former Ohio State Buckeye scored 11 touchdowns, mostly on short plunges, last year. Since Darrell Thompson was working out at fullback in the spring minicamp, there's a decent chance that he'll be the goal-line guy again.

Rod Bernstine, San Diego. The former tight end isn't a pure running back like teammate Marion Butts, but he averaged 4.8 yards per carry last year and was used more in short-yardage situations. He was being tried at H-back as the team worked on its new two-back offense in the spring, however. He also could be a signing problem.

Tony Smith, Atlanta. A super-talented rookie tailback with better size than anyone on Atlanta's roster. But the Falcons don't score on the ground and Jerry Glanville rotates his backs.

Herschel Walker, Minnesota. Fran Tarkenton has a better chance of playing for the Vikings, but Walker will probably play for some team this year. There were rumors in May that the Jets were going to make a move for the 30-year-old 226-pounder. If he's on a roster, put him in your top 15.

Mark Higgs, Miami. The Dolphins haven't had a 1,000-yard back since Delvin Williams in 1978. Higgs (905 yards, four TDs) would have reached the mark if Don Shula hadn't forced Sammie Smith into the lineup for six games in the middle of the season.

Leroy Hoard, Cleveland. Tied an NFL record for running backs with nine TD catches. The Browns say they'll let him carry the ball more this year, but there are a lot of backs in Cleveland.

▲ **Leonard Russell.**

Brad Muster, Chicago. He scores five to seven touchdowns every year. When Neal Anderson gets hurt — and he usually does — the

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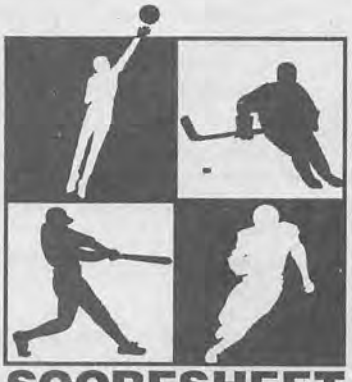

SCORESHEET SPORTS

◀ Terry Allen.

former Stanford star is an every-week scorer.

Siran Stacy, Philadelphia. The Eagles plan to turn over their running attack to the second-round pick from Alabama. Stacy would have been a first-round pick if not for a major knee injury at the start of the 1990 season.

Eric Dickerson, Raiders. In his 10th year, can Dickerson still play? His average has declined every year since 1987, and Art Shell likes to use all his backs.

Earnest Byner, Washington. Ricky Ervins may cut into his playing time, but Byner's not being put out to pasture. He'll still have a significant role in the Redskin offense and could be a super steal late in your draft if he takes Gerald Riggs' goal-line job.

Johnny Johnson, Phoenix. A Pro Bowl-type player. The problem is the Cardinals play eight games against those tough NFC East teams and also face New Orleans, San Francisco and Atlanta. He's also a probable holdout.

Blair Thomas, Jets. He hasn't put up the big numbers yet, but you have to be careful how far you let a potential 1,000-yard rusher slide. If the rumors about the Jets signing Herschel Walker become a reality, drop Thomas right out of your top 50.

Albert Bentley, Indianapolis. Although he's a 32-year-old coming off a major knee injury, Bentley will probably be the exclusive scorer on the ground for the Colts. He can also catch.

Greg Lewis, Denver. Bobby Humphrey and Gaston Green have each had a 1,000 yard season, but neither one has played in goal-line situations. This is the Broncos' 1-yard back.

Harvey Williams, Kansas City. Lost in the debate about whether

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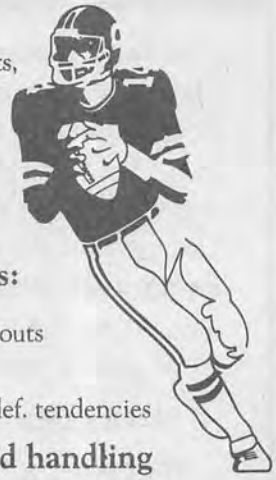

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Barry Word or Christian Okoye will start is the fact that this 222-pounder from LSU had a nice rookie season. He can also catch.

Barry Foster, Pittsburgh. The Steelers have ditched their short passing game. They want to run the ball like the Chiefs and Giants. Foster will probably end up the featured ball carrier this year.

DARKHORSES

Gary Brown, Houston. All of a sudden, the 1991 eighth-rounder is the No. 2 running back for the Oilers. If something were to happen to Lorenzo White, Brown's the solo back in the run-and-shoot.

Darren Lewis, Chicago. Rumbled his way to 65 yards on nine second-half carries in the playoff loss to Dallas. Considering Neal Anderson and Brad Muster's injury problems, he could be on the field a lot this year — and he might be good enough to get on the field anyway.

Rueben Mayes, Seattle. The Seahawks are trying to rekindle the career of the former Saint, who retired on the first day of training camp last year. Multiple surgeries and age have robbed him of his quickness.

Lewis Tillman, Giants. What if Rodney Hampton — who's been nicked by injuries throughout his career — goes down? The back from Walter Payton's old school (Jackson State) would be a reliable scorer.

Also—Amp Lee, San Francisco; Cleveland Gary, Rams; Kenneth Davis, Buffalo; Darrell Thompson, Green Bay.

OVERRATED

Gaston Green, Denver. Even though he rushed for 1,037 yards last year he scored just four times — and three of those came in one game. His size (192 pounds) prohibits him from running inside, so he'll never be able to score more than six touchdowns. He's also injury prone and staring at sharing time with two other backs.

Allen Pinkett, New Orleans. When the Saints made the trade with the Oilers, they didn't realize they'd be taking a running back in the first round. He's strictly a backup now and too small for goal-line duty.

Roger Craig, Minnesota. Barring an injury to Terry Allen, he'll play a minimal role in the Viking offense this year.

Anthony Thompson, Phoenix. An inside runner's speed in an outside runner's body. At least has a chance to get on the field, with Johnny Johnson threatening to hold out.

Keith Byars, Philadelphia. A super runner/catcher combo, but fantasy football is about scoring, and he won't get in the end zone more than three or four times this year.

Also—Steve Broussard, Atlanta; Fred McAfee, Saints; Bobby Humphrey, Denver; Gary Anderson, Tampa Bay.

UNMENTIONABLE

Eric Metcalf, Cleveland. The tiny scat-back didn't make any big plays last year, and now it looks like he wants out of Cleveland. He's averaged 3.3 yards per carry during his three-year career.

Craig Heyward, New Orleans. Put him on the All-Domino's Pizza team — he'll guarantee that he can run the 40-yard dash in 30 minutes or less. If Ironhead ever competes athletically again, it may be as a sumo wrestler in Japan.

Tim Worley, Pittsburgh. Skipped a couple of drug tests and was suspended by the NFL in April for at least a year. You'll never hear from him again.

Joe Morris, Cleveland. With the addition of James Brooks and Tommy Vardell, it would take a near-miracle for Little Joe to even make the roster.

Also—Freeman McNeil, Jets; Steve Sewell, Denver; Heath Sherman, Philadelphia; Gill Fenerty, New Orleans; Keith Woodside, Dallas.

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Riddell
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The NFL's best receivers got more from less last year. Even though scoring league-wide was the lowest since the nine-game strike season of 1982, a bundle of receivers had super seasons.

For the first time in NFL history, three receivers (Jerry Rice, Andre Rison and Mark Clayton) caught 12 or more touchdown passes. And for the first time since 1986, six different players caught at least 10.

Numerous receivers were able to get deep and score from beyond 50 yards — TDs that are doubled in value in most leagues. Nine of the 11 wide receivers with at least eight TDs scored on at least one long play, and three players scored on four or more bombs.

We think many superstar performers from last year will be solid again this season. That's why we recommend seven as solid early-round choices, headed by Jerry Rice of the 49ers for the sixth-straight year. As usual, he's a notch above the field.

We see three running backs and seven quarterbacks standing out at their positions. Therefore, a good draft strategy might be to get one of the blue-chip running backs in the first round and one of the seven upper-echelon quarterbacks in the second round. Hopefully, there will be a solid wide receiver like a John Taylor or Michael Irvin still available for you in the third.

If you don't get one of the top seven receivers it's not the end of the world. The draft is deep at wideout. In fact, we're pretty high on the top 23 on the board.

Receivers

1 San Francisco's **Jerry Rice** needs only eight more TD catches to overtake Steve Largent as the NFL's all-time TD receptions leader, but don't expect him to stop there. The future Hall of Famer might as well set his sights right now on Jim Brown, the all-time leader for touchdowns of any kind.

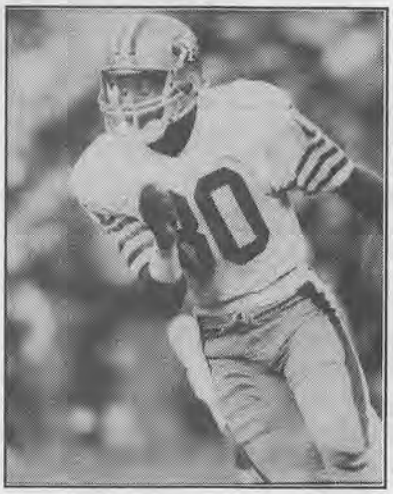
Rice, with 97 career scores, needs to find the end zone only 30 more times to become the NFL's all-time touchdown king. At his current pace, he might catch Brown before the end of the 1993 season.

Last year, Rice was able to lead wide receivers in fantasy scoring for the sixth-straight season even though he played for eight weeks with a torn knee ligament. The pride of Mississippi Valley State played through the injury — he's never missed a game due to injury.

"It's hard to pull yourself out," Rice said. "I just can't see myself sitting on the sidelines while my team is out there fighting for a win."

While he was injured, Rice went a career-long five games without a touchdown reception. He scored 14 touchdowns in the other 11 games, which is more in line with his usual production. Including playoff games, Rice has scored 105 times in his last 99 games.

Don't worry about Rice slowing down. He's only 29 years old, and he can average a touchdown a game even if Joe Montana isn't quarterbacking. Either Rice or running back Barry Sanders should be the No. 1 overall pick in every fantasy draft. We're going with Sanders this year because there are fewer good running backs than wide receivers available.



▲ Jerry Rice.

◀ Andre Rison.

2 The two Andres, **Andre Reed** and Andre Rison, are both superstar wide receivers who play for teams that produced at least 30 touchdown passes last year. We're giving the Buffalo receiver the nod as our No. 2 guy because his quarterback has fewer targets to look for when the team gets near the end zone.

Buffalo led the NFL with 39 touchdown passes, so you can figure they'll have at least another 30 or so this season. But who, besides their four-time Pro Bowler, is going to catch them? James Lofton is 36 years old and Don Beebe is an injury-prone drop-meister. In the worst-case scenario, Reed will be worth eight TDs. He'll probably score 10 or 12.

Reed, Rice and Washington's Gary Clark all came into the league in 1985, and are the only three receivers to have scored at least eight touchdowns in each of the past three seasons.

Reed led the Bills in receiving last season for the sixth straight year, with 81 catches for 1,113 yards and 10 touchdowns. He doesn't have super speed, but is usually able to bust one of his slants for a 50-yard touchdown.

The Kutztown State graduate is one of the safest picks available. When you draft him in the second or third round, you know you're getting a player that will add value to your franchise. This is not a guy who will let you down.

3 The other Andre, **Andre Rison** of Atlanta, has been the highest scoring receiver other than Rice in the last two years. Bad Moon Rison was controlled for the first five games last year, but he caught fire after the Falcons went to their four-receiver Red Gun offense.

Rison led the NFL with 12 touchdown receptions during the final 11 games. He missed his second-straight 1,000 yard season by 24 yards but always seemed to come up with the clutch receptions — like his two fourth-quarter touchdowns in the comeback win over Green Bay.

Rison is no flash in the pan. The former Michigan State star is the first player in the league history to catch 215 passes in his first three seasons.

The only reason we rate him behind Reed is quarterback Chris Miller also has the option to throw to Michael Haynes, Mike Pritchard and a host of other wideouts. Rison caught 40 percent of the Falcon touchdown passes last year, however, compared to Reed's 26 percent haul in Buffalo.

If you're a believer in the theory that the stars come out on Monday nights, you may want to elevate Rison ahead of Reed. Atlanta faces Dallas at home on Monday night in week 16 — an ideal setting for Rison to propel fantasy teams into their championship games.

4 It seems that every year in the draft, a third of the franchises in the NFL draft rookie wide receivers with 4.2 and 4.3 40-yard dash times, hoping the players can develop into deep threats. But two guys who run in the 4.6 range, Jerry Rice and **Gary Clark**, were the

were the only players who last year scored five touchdowns from 50 or more yards out. Maybe pure speed isn't that important.

Because half of the Redskin receiver's 10 touchdowns came on bombs, he tied for second in receiving points behind Rice. The only six-point players who outscored Clark were Rice and Detroit running back Barry Sanders.

Although Clark doesn't have great stopwatch speed, he's been able to score on at least one 50-plus yard touchdown five straight years. Clark also averaged a career-high 19.1 yards per catch last year.

But don't cast Clark as strictly a long-ball artist. He'll also go over the middle or extend his body in traffic. "He will fight you to death to get open," Redskin quarterbacks coach Jack Burns said last year.

Like Reed or Rison, Clark is a safe pick for fantasy coaches. Even though the Redskins have a Posse of other talented receivers, Clark has been able to catch at least seven touchdown passes for six straight years.

5 While Jerry Rice will almost certainly become the NFL's all-time leader for touchdown receptions this year, another receiver, **Mark Clayton**, could move up to No. 4 all-time on the list. The Dolphin star is only 10 TDs shy of Joe Namath's favorite target, Don Maynard, who finished with 88 touchdowns.

Clayton, 31, bounced back from an injury-marred 1990 season to haul in 70 catches, including 12 touchdowns — his most since catching 18 in 1984. The Dan Marino-to-Mark Clayton duo, with 77 career TDs, is already the NFL's all-time most frequent scoring combination. It's hard to believe the Dolphins got Clayton in the eighth round in 1983. Only one other player we have ranked in the top 10, seventh-rounder Michael Haynes, was picked after the first three rounds. And it was in that same draft that they got Marino with the next-to-last pick in the first round.

▲ Mark Clayton.

Assuming Clayton can stay healthy — the injuries that slowed him in 1990 were minor hamstring and knee problems — he's a safe bet to finish with around 10 touchdowns. The former Louisville Cardinal scored 25 times during the '88-'89 seasons.

6 There are some observers who think **John Taylor** is just as good a receiver as Jerry Rice. He hasn't been as productive as his 49er teammate, they say, because the San Francisco offense was designed around Rice by offensive coordinator Mike Holmgren.

With Holmgen gone to Green Bay, logic follows, perhaps Taylor's already spectacular numbers will come even closer to Rice's.

We're not going that far, but we like the numbers Taylor's been able to put up since 1989, and if he stays healthy he should have no problem putting up more big numbers this season. Taylor, like Clayton, was nagged by injuries in 1990 and finished with a mild seven touchdowns. He scored a combined 19 times in 1989 and 1990.

Taylor is a half-year older than Rice, even though he came into the league a season later (he redshirted a year at Delaware State). But just because he's 30 years old doesn't mean he can't still blow by cornerbacks. Taylor's 97-yard touchdown against Atlanta last year gives him an NFL-record three touchdown catches from beyond 90 yards.

Taylor, if anything, is slightly more dangerous than Rice after the catch. He's averaged 16.9 yards per reception during his career. The two 49ers are the only players in the league to have scored two TDs from beyond 50 yards in each of the last three years.

7 It says a lot about the depth of this year's crop of receivers that a guy like **Michael Irvin** might be around when six other wideouts have been drafted. If any of these receivers aren't among the first 25 players drafted, some coach is getting away with grand larceny.

Irvin was the most productive receiver in the NFL last year. Now completely recovered from a 1989 knee injury, he caught 93 passes for an NFL-high 1,523 yards — a benchmark exceeded only once by the great Jerry Rice.

Irvin really started clicking down the stretch when he told backup quarterback Steve Beuerlein to throw him the ball. The former University of Miami star wants the ball coming his way even if he's covered by a Pro Bowler like Darrell Green or Deion Sanders.

Irvin caught eight touchdown passes last year, including four in the final five games after he instructed Beuerlein on how to make the passing offense work. He will undoutedly improve on his eight TD total this season as Aikman matures at quarterback.

"He'll catch it anywhere it's thrown," John Madden says. "You can throw it high, you can throw it low, you can throw it inside, outside and Irvin comes up with it."

8 Another confident wide receiver is **Haywood Jeffires** of the Oilers. The former North Carolina State star thinks he's the next Jerry Rice of the league after he caught 100 passes last year.

"I'd like some day to be the Jerry Rice of football, and I'm getting the opportunites to show my talent, and I'm not that far away," the 1987 first rounder says.

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We're not going that far — Jeffires had two crucial drops near the end zone in the playoff loss at Denver — but we feel he'll be productive enough to head up our second tier of receivers.

Jeffires' 100 catches led the NFL last year, and there's no reason to believe he won't catch even more this year. He didn't even start out the '91 season as a full-time player and the Oilers lost Drew Hill (90 catches) to Atlanta. Houston also plays a much easier schedule this season, so Warren Moon will likely be throwing more than 23 touchdown passes.

9 The wildcard of the draft among the wide receivers is Atlanta's **Michael Haynes**. In 18 games, the super-speedster from tiny Northern Arizona University caught 13 touchdown passes from an average of 44 yards.

Speed? This guy's got it. He ran in an Olympic qualifier against Carl Lewis in 1988. Haynes ran track in college and didn't even play high school football.

The fifth-year wideout averaged an incredible 22.4 yards per catch on his 50 receptions. Even though he caught only half as many passes as Jeffires, he came within a half a football field of having as many yards.

There are a couple of negatives on Haynes, however. He was unproductive and nicked with injuries for most of his first three seasons, and the Falcons have a host of other receivers. In addition, defenses may do a better job of planning for him.

10 If Randall Cunningham hadn't gone down with a knee injury in the season-opener, **Fred Barnett** probably would have scored about 10 touchdowns. The talented third-year receiver is a possible steal. It's hard to believe, but this guy's going to be available in the fifth and sixth rounds in many fantasy drafts.

Even with the erratic combination of Jim McMahon, Brad Goebel, Jeff Kemp and Pat Ryan at the controls last year, Barnett was able to pull down 62 catches and score four times. Two of his scoring plays covered at least 70 yards.

Who knows what kind of numbers Barnett would have put up with Cunningham at quarterback. They hooked for eight touchdowns in Barnett's rookie season, with half of them coming from outside 30 yards — including that miraculous 97-yarder in Buffalo.

"Fred can play with anybody," McMahon says. "He's got so much confidence in his ability. He comes back to the huddle and says, 'I can beat that guy, I can beat that guy.'"

OTHER QUALITY PROSPECTS

Draft **James Lofton** and you get the NFL's all-time leader in receiving yards on your team — at least according to us. According to the official NFL record books, Steve Largent still holds a 13,089 to 13,035 yard edge, but the former Seahawk gained 261 of his yards in a strike game against the Lions. We don't count those yards.

The only reason we don't put him in our top 10 is his age. At 36, Lofton is the oldest wide receiver in the league. He was catching passes back in 1978 when players like Fran Tarkenton and O.J. Simpson were still active.

Fourteen years later he matches his career high with eight touchdown grabs (three from outside 50 yards) and we're supposed to believe he can keep it up? Buffalo did nothing in the draft or Plan B to prepare for life after Lofton, so at least there's no worry of him losing his starting spot.

The Oilers' **Ernest Givins** isn't happy in Houston, but he may complain his way to about 1,100 yards and eight touchdowns this season. With Drew Hill gone, Givins is the only proven inside slot receiver in Houston's run-and-shoot offense. Somebody has to pick up the slack for Hill's missing 90 receptions.

Fantasy Central

Are you looking for a good periodic report? "Tim Factor" 3-Week Updates are here now!

The "Tim Factor" 3-Week Updates are designed to help make your decisions such as who to start, who to pick up, and who to trade for. Based on data compiled throughout the season, the report offers a list of 100 players in three categories (RB, QB, and receivers) ranked by their "Tim Factor."

The "Tim Factor" is based on not only a player's scoring history up to the moment, but also on his total yards gained throughout the season. Statistically, a player's yards gained can predict between 85% and 95% of the players' total points scored. Therefore, looking only at a player's points doesn't give you the whole picture of his future scoring potential. A player who has been racking up lots of yards, but hasn't been in the end zone, could be ready to break the goal line at any moment. The "Tim Factor" combines both yards gained and points scored into one numerical ranking which you can use to evaluate the player's scoring potential.

Name	Pos	Tm	Rush Yds	Pass Yds	Rec Yds	Rush TDs	Pass TDs	Rec TDs	TotalYds	TotalPts	Factor
Sanders,Barry	RB	DET	1548	0	307	18	0	1	1855	102	199
Smith,Emmitt	RB	DAL	1563	0	258	12	0	1	1821	78	192
Thomas,Thurman	RB	BUF	1407	0	631	7	0	5	2038	72	189
Delpino,Robert	RB	LRM	588	0	717	6	0	1	1305	80	174
Hampton,Rodney	RB	NYG	1059	0	283	10	0	0	1235	80	173

The data above is sorted by the "Tim Factor," and reflects data at the end of '91. The "Tim Factor" 3-Week Updates will be mailed out after every 3 games played. An end-of season report will also be provided. Get an edge on your opponents this year! Order your "Tim Factor" 3-Week Updates now!

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RECEIVERS

One of the reasons Givins is unhappy is that he has come within 70 yards of — but missed — 1,000 yards receiving in four of the past five seasons. He hasn't passed the 1,000-yard mark since his rookie season in 1986. Last year was particularly frustrating. He ended with 996 yards (five touchdowns). He added another 194 yards and two touchdowns in the playoffs.

Houston's run-and-shoot produced a measly 24 touchdown passes last year. That total will certainly rise this season with the four tough NFC East teams off the schedule. Givins caught nine touchdown passes in 1990.

A great value pick in the middle rounds for fantasy teams is Green Bay's **Sterling Sharpe**. How can you go wrong taking a 27-year-old Pro Bowler who's the only proven receiver on his team and may be one of the top five receivers in the league?

Sharpe caught 90 passes for 1,423 yards and scored 13 touchdowns in 1989. Since then, he's been able to average 68 catches and 1,033 yards a season even though he's been constantly double-teamed. If new coach Mike Holmgren pushes the right buttons and adds even a little spark to the Green Bay offense, Sharpe is a 16-game starter for fantasy coaches.

Anthony Miller of the San Diego Chargers ran undisciplined routes and dropped a lot of balls last year, and he suffered a knee injury in spring drills that might mean he won't be ready for training camp. But we're going to go ahead and project him as a starter for fantasy franchises anyway.

The former Tennessee Volunteer is the only proven receiver the Chargers have. As recently as 1989, he was catching 10 of the team's 15 touchdown passes. With quarterback John Friesz coming on, Miller

Tim Brown. ▶

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▲ **Fred Barnett.**

could be a deadly 16-game starter. San Diego's creampuff schedule doesn't hurt, either.

Fred Barnett is faster, more spectacular and gets more pub, but **Calvin Williams** was more productive for the Eagles in 1990. The fifth-rounder caught nine touchdown passes, a total surpassed by only two other rookies since 1980. The 1990 fifth-rounder's second season was pretty much a wash after he separated a shoulder and missed four games. He came back to catch three touchdown passes in the final seven games.

What you don't get with Williams is speed. His 9.9 yards-per-catch average was the lowest in the NFL for receivers with at least 75 receptions last year.

The player who was taken with the pick before Sterling Sharpe in the 1988 draft, **Tim Brown** of the Raiders, could also be in for a big year. The former Heisman Trophy winner looked fully recovered from the knee injury that kept him out the entire 1989 season and limited him to 18 catches in 1990.

Brown caught fire towards the end of last year, busting loose on a spectacular 78-yard touchdown against Buffalo and returning a punt for

a TD against Cincinnati. He scored five of his team-high six touchdowns in the final seven games. The Raiders' other two aging receivers, Willie Gault and Mervyn Fernandez, are question marks.

How long can 34-year-old **Art Monk** play after he replaces Steve Largent as the NFL's all-time receptions leader? It could be quite awhile. The former Syracuse running back led the Redskins in receiving last year and scored eight touchdowns. Ronnie Lott says if he were a fantasy coach he'd draft him. "You admire him because you're always saying, 'Isn't he getting old.' But he's not, he's getting better."

The Saints obviously knew something when they traded Brett Perriman in the preseason. What they knew was that third-year receiver **Floyd Turner** was ready to emerge — maybe even more so than they thought.

The former sixth-rounder sparked New Orleans' air game with 64 receptions for 927 yards and eight touchdowns. Our only worry is Coach Jim Mora likes to employ the four-receiver offense in passing situations, causing the Saints' limited TD haul to be spread too thin.

The New York Jets' best receiver is no longer Al Toon — it's **Rob Moore**. In his second year out of Syracuse, Moore showed Pro Bowl potential, catching 70 passes for 987 yards in the Jets' run-heavy offense. Perhaps strong-armed Browning Nagle can give the passing attack a shot in the arm.

Kansas City's **Tim Barnett** has the same kind of aggressive style as his cousin Fred of the Eagles (think they gave defenses fits when they played on the same high school team?). Tim quickly grabbed a starting spot in Kansas City and turned in the finest season by a Jackson State rookie since Walter Payton in 1975. The combination of Barnett heading into his second year and Dave Krieg taking over as the Chief quarterback should result in an increase on his five touchdowns.

Second-year receiver **Willie Green** of Detroit started to look like a flash in the pan when he scored only one touchdown during the second half of the season. Then he ate Dallas alive in the playoffs, catching eight passes for 115 yards and two touchdowns in a 38-6 romp. Green dropped some balls and caught only 39 passes, but the 6-foot-2, first-year player made a lot of big plays pulling down passes over smaller defenders in the end zone.

It's too early to write off 31-year-old **Henry Ellard** of the Rams. Even though everything went wrong in Anaheim last year, Ellard was still able to produce his fourth straight 1,000-yard season. Stephone Paige's college receiving mate scored 18 TDs during the '88-'89 seasons.

Another thirtysomething receiver capable of good fantasy numbers is the Vikings' **Anthony Carter**. The MVP of the first USFL championship game had his string of three straight 1,000-yard seasons snapped but was still able to score six times. Think he's too old? The Vikes had him run 13 reverses last year.

THE BEST OF THE REST

Wendell Davis, Chicago. With 61 catches for 945 yards, Davis was the most productive Bear wide receiver since Dick Gordon led the NFC in receiving in 1970. Chicago needs only to open up its passing game a hair for Davis to boost his six touchdown total to the eight or nine range.

Eddie Brown, Cincinnati. Talk about later-round values. Here's a guy who scored 24 touchdowns during the three seasons prior to last year's disaster. The Bengals did add a talented third receiver (Carl Pickens) in the draft, however.

Don Beebe, Buffalo. He dropped two touchdown passes in the Super Bowl, but look at the situation he's in. The Bills threw 39 TDs last year, and one of their receivers is 36 years old. Even in his No. 3 role, Beebe will likely score a half dozen times.

Jessie Hester, Indianapolis. Because of their weak running game, the Colts could put up a surprising number of touchdown passes this year. Hester has led the team in receiving TDs in each of the past two

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RECEIVERS

seasons, and would have been ranked higher if Indy hadn't acquired Reggie Langhorne from the Browns.

Cris Carter, Minnesota. If you believe in revenge scoring, start Carter in his Dec. 6 game against the Eagles. The last time he played against his former team, Carter scored on TDs of 42 and 78 yards.

Herman Moore, Detroit. Wayne Fontes was hoping for more than 11 catches when he made Moore the first wide receiver drafted in 1991. The Virginia rookie started emerging in the two playoff games with 10 catches for 156 yards and a touchdown.

Desmond Howard, Washington. Joe Gibbs has said he'll use a four-wide-receiver offense at times this year, so you'll definitely see the Heisman Trophy winner on the field. He has the potential to score touchdowns from beyond 50 yards either by run, pass or kick return.

Lawrence Dawsey, Tampa Bay. The hustling third rounder led his team and all rookies with 55 receptions. This year, the Bucs have an easy schedule and Sam Wyche may be able to add the spark to increase the team's passing TD total from 13. There are some other decent receivers, however.

Irving Fryar, New England. Rejuvenated under a new coach, Fryar sped through defenses instead of into trees and had the first 1,000-yard season of his career. And at 29 years of age, it's too early to pull the plug on the first pick of the '85 draft.

Webster Slaughter, Cleveland. The only returning receiver for the improved Browns with more than 17 career receptions. He's unsigned and wants to be traded, however.

DARKHORSES

Mario Bailey, Houston. The Heisman Trophy pose at the end of Washington's Rose Bowl rout was no joke. He had more catches for more yards and more touchdowns than Desmond Howard. Whoever fills Drew Hill's vacant slot receiver spot in Houston will put up some big numbers.

Mike Pritchard, Atlanta. The 13th pick of the '91 draft was everything the Falcons hoped he'd be, catching 50 passes for 624 yards and a couple scores. With defenses focusing on Rison and Haynes, he could be one of the big surprises of the season.

Brett Perriman, Detroit. Labeled a bust in New Orleans, Perriman came to Detroit just a week and a half before the start of the season, but he ended up leading the team in receiving. All that was missing were the touchdowns — he scored just once.

Robert Clark, Miami. If anything happens to either of the Marks Brothers — and they're among the six oldest starting wideouts in the league — then the 26-year-old Plan B signee from Detroit could post some eye-popping numbers.

Patrick Rowe, Cleveland. Webster Slaughter wants out of Cleveland, so the Browns' second-rounder could be the go-to guy from day one.

Mike Sherrard, San Francisco. Rice and Taylor are both about 30, and they both need new contracts (although so does Sherrard). If the former UCLA star somehow gets into the starting lineup of the powerful 49er offense, he'll be one of the top 15 scorers available.

Also—Hart Lee Dykes, New England; Carl Pickens, Cincinnati; Michael Jackson, Cleveland; Derek Russell, Denver; Alvin Harper, Dallas; Corey Harris, Houston.

OVERRATED

Al Toon, Jets. He teased fantasy coaches last year by scoring in the last game before the regular season and the first game after it. In between, he became the first player in the history of the league to catch 74 passes without scoring a touchdown.

Randal Hill, Phoenix. Scouts drooled over his speed at the combine in 1991, but the former University of Miami player has never made a big play — in college or the pros. His supersonic speed allowed him average 11.5 yards per catch his rookie year. Long reception: 31 yards.

RECEIVERS

▲ Tim Barnett.

Drew Hill, Atlanta. The 35-year-old caught 90 passes with Houston last year, but it's hard to see how he'll fit in on a team that's got Andre Rison and Mike Pritchard playing in the slots. He certainly won't be scoring more than three touchdowns.

Mervyn Fernandez, Raiders. Spent the offseason fighting an indecent exposure charge. He was underexposed on the field last year, catching only one touchdown pass.

Also—Vance Johnson and Mark Jackson, Denver; Ricky Sanders, Washington; Tim McGee, Cincinnati.

UNMENTIONABLE

Willie Gault, Raiders. His Olympic-caliber speed amounted to a paltry six catches for 84 yards in the second half of the season last year. Those aren't the kind of numbers you expect to get out of a wide receiver who cost you a No. 1 draft pick.

Louis Lipps, Pittsburgh. You see him on the field and you wonder how he scored 26 touchdowns in his first two seasons. He's only 30 years old, but seems to have lost a step.

Tom Waddle, Chicago. A fan favorite, but he won't help your fantasy team.

Ricky Nattiel, Tampa Bay. If a guy scores only eight touchdowns in five years with John Elway throwing to him, how many can you expect him to catch when Vinny Testaverde's his quarterback?

Also—Doug Thomas, Seattle; George Thomas, Atlanta; Bruce Hill, Tampa Bay; Perry Kemp, Green Bay.

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Last summer in Tokyo, Bob Beamon's leap into immortality was finally eclipsed after 23 years when Mike Powell cleared 29 feet in the long jump.

Maybe this is the year Tom Dempsey's kick into immortality will finally be surpassed.

On Nov. 8, 1970, at Tulane Stadium, Dempsey booted a 63-yard field goal to lift New Orleans to a 19-17 win over the Lions. Twenty two seasons later, a growing number in the NFL's placekicking fraternity have the ability to break the record.

- Morten Andersen has reached the 60-yard mark.
- Rookie Jason Hanson, four months old when Dempsey made history, hit a 62-yarder in college.
- Chip Lohmiller seems to clear 54 yards every time he plays in a dome.
- Pete Stoyanovich hit from 71 yards in practice. "I'm sure some day, sooner or later, I'll get my chance to break it," the Dolphin says.

A new generation of robo-kickers is taking over the league. Youngsters like Stoyanovich, Hanson, Steve Christie and John Kasay are replacing the veterans whose accuracy wanes outside 45 yards. A record 14 different kickers hit field goals of at least 53 yards last year.

Can Dempsey's record last another year? "I'm tremendously surprised nobody's broken it before now," says Dempsey, now a car salesman in Louisiana.

Kickers

With so many kickers increasing their range, fantasy coaches are collecting bonus points for long field goals at a record pace. Last year there were an all-time high 42 field goals from 50 or more yards — that's double the total from as recently as two years ago.

But for fantasy coaches, we still don't recommend investing an early round draft pick in a kicker. With so many talented kickers available, somebody will still be there in the middle rounds — maybe a Christie or a Hanson. By waiting you won't sacrifice quality at the other positions on your team, and you'll probably get an excellent kicker anyway — maybe the guy who breaks Dempsey's record.

1 Washington's **Chip Lohmiller** has been on a roll the past three years. The combination of his long-range leg and the Redskins' powerful offense has made him fantasy football's dominant kicker.

It's rare for a placekicker to get the opportunity to attempt 40 field goals in a season — it's happened only 11 times in the past 11 years. Lohmiller has done it in three straight seasons. That's why he keeps finishing first or second in scoring.

Last year the former Minnesota Golden Gopher connected on 31 of his league-high 43 attempts (most kickers try about 30) and scored 149 points — only 12 points short of the NFL record set by Redskin Mark Moseley. Lohmiller had a 28-point edge on the next best kicker in the league.

Talk about getting a leg up on the competition.

Lohmiller is by far the safest selection a fantasy coach can make to ensure getting a top-three kicker. A case can be made for drafting him in the second round. If he's still there in the fourth, you almost have to take him.

2 Lohmiller's big numbers obscured a spectacular year by Miami's **Pete Stoyanovich.** The Dolphin kicker finished second in the league in scoring, with 121 points, even though he missed the first two weeks due to a holdout.

Figure in the 16 or so points the former Indiana soccer star lost due to his holdout and you've got one of the top scoring performances of all time.

Stoyanovich has hit field goals of 58 and 59 yards since the Dolphins stole him in the eighth round of the 1989 draft. And he's a more accurate kicker than Lohmiller. Lohmiller hit 31 of 43 field goal attempts last year; Stoyanovich got his 31 field goals in just 37 tries.

"I'm going to be humble, I'm *one* of the best," Stoyanovich says. "Everything I've ever wanted to accomplish, I've always seemed to accomplish."

3 Since Marty Schottenheimer took over in Kansas City, **Nick Lowery** has added quantity to quality. The Dartmouth graduate was already the NFL's all-time leader in field goal percentage when the new coach arrived, now he's become an upper-echelon scorer as well.

During the last three years, Lowery has accumulated 355 points, second only to Lohmiller and well ahead of the rest of the field. The 36-year-old is only getting more accurate in his old age, hitting a league-high 88 percent of his attempts the past two years — and he's not kicking in a dome or on the Sun Belt.

With Dave Krieg replacing the ineffective Steve DeBerg at quarterback, the Chief offense will probably be more potent this season, and Lowery could post numbers close to his 1990 output, when he led the NFL with 139 points.

4 Tampa Bay pulled one of the all-time Plan B blunders when they left second-year placekicker **Steve Christie** unprotected. Did they think a kicker with 81 percent accuracy and a cannon leg would go unnoticed?

Obviously not in Buffalo, where coach Marv Levy and General Manager Bill Polian quickly inked Christie to a $2.3 million deal. "When the list came out, Bill fell down three times running down the hall to tell me," Levy said.

Christie's field goal accuracy leads all active kickers (because he has only 47 attempts he doesn't qualify for all-time leader consideration). If Christie had kicked for Buffalo last year, he would have probably finished second in the league in scoring.

And don't worry about him making the adjustment to the often frigid temperatures in Rich Stadium. Christie grew up in nearby Ontario.

5 New Orleans is sure happy **Morten Andersen** decided to leave his native Denmark to participate in a high school exchange program with Davis High School in Indianapolis. Andersen had never kicked a football before he arrived but learned fast enough at Davis and Michigan State that the Saints used a fourth-round pick to acquire his services in 1982.

It's a move they've never regretted.

Andersen is the second-most accurate kicker in the history of the league, and the lefty also has plenty of power. Last year he became the third player in league history to convert a field goal of 60 yards. That blast against the Bears would have been good from 65.

Andersen finished fifth in scoring last year even though the Saint offense struggled at times. With rookie Vaughn Dunbar helping to boost the running game, Andersen's point total could climb even higher.

6 Detroit thought so much of Washington State's **Jason Hanson** they traded up into the second round to get him, even though they could have gotten by for another couple years with Eddie Murray. Hanson's record-setting leg should put up big numbers for years to come in the Motor City.

Colleges narrowed the goalposts and outlawed kicking tees last year, but that didn't stop Hanson from hitting a record 62-yarder at UNLV. The Spokane, Wash., native hit an NCAA-record 20 field goals from beyond 50 yards. This is definitely a kicker who will pile up 50-yard bonus points this year.

7 The Philadelphia Eagles used five different kickers during the 1988 and 1989 seasons, but after the way **Roger Ruzek** kicked last year, it looks like it could be years before they need another placekicker.

Even though he plays in the often harsh conditions of Veterans Stadium, Ruzek connected on 28 of 33 field goal attempts, the highest percentage for an Eagle placekicker since Horst Muhlmann was a perfect 11-for-11 in the 1976 season. Two of Ruzek's misses last year were from 51 and 55 yards.

Since taking over as the full-time kicker in 1990, Ruzek has finished seventh in scoring among kickers two straight years.

8 For those fantasy coaches going into their drafts with the idea of waiting until the final rounds to select a kicker, San Francisco's **Mike Cofer** could be their man. The sixth-year veteran was the NFL's leading scorer during the 1988-1990 time span, but he slumped last year. He could be a real steal late in fantasy drafts.

Cofer has good power and accuracy, he just didn't show it in 1991. Operating with a new snapper and holder, the former North Carolina State kicker missed half of his 28 field goals. If he had kicked with his usual efficiency, Cofer would have scored about 112 points.

Cofer's certainly capable of rebounding. The field goals he missed last year were the easy ones — he was 2-of-3 from 50 yards. And it's a rare day when a team shuts down the 49er offense.

9 Some people may be surprised to see the Raiders' **Jeff Jaeger** rated this low. The All-Pro hit 29 of 34 field goals, won four games with last-minute kicks and finished fourth in scoring. What's a guy have to do?

Our doubts about Jaeger stem from the inconsistency of the Raider offense, which slid to 23rd in the league last year. We can't endorse starting Jaeger when the team travels to Philadelphia, Washington or Kansas City. And we'd also like to see another 85-percent-accuracy year out of Jaeger before we elevate him to the class of a Lowery, Andersen or Stoyanovich. He had a career average of 68 percent prior to last season.

▲ **Chip Lohmiller.**

10 **Norm Johnson** was cut in Seattle because of too many blown kicks. He operated at a Pro Bowl-like level for the Falcons, however, hitting all 17 of his attempts inside 47 yards and kicking a 50-yard game-winner in overtime against New Orleans.

Atlanta helped its offense on draft day by selecting an offensive tackle and a running back in the first round. The final three games — Dallas on Monday night and at the Bucs and Rams — are nice for fantasy playoff games.

OTHER QUALITY PROSPECTS

David Treadwell of the Broncos is a kicking contradiction. Among all kickers who have ever attempted 100 field goals, Treadwell rates third-best in accuracy, trailing only Nick Lowery and Morten Andersen. Yet, he's never protected and will probably be bounced out of the league in a couple of years.

Treadwell's problem is he has the power of a kicker out of the '60s. He missed two thirds of his attempts from 40 to 49 yards and has never hit a 50-yarder. He has ranked in the top six in scoring in each of his three seasons in the NFL.

Houston's **Al Del Greco** would be in our top 10 — if we knew he would make the team. Last year we got burned by recommending Teddy Garcia as the No. 5 overall kicker. He was cut in preseason. Our point

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▲ **Pete Stoyanovich.**

is only that the Oilers will produce plenty of kicking points.

Last year, the combination of Ian Howfield and Del Greco combined for 110 points. Del Greco will see plenty of competition this year. Among the 15 active kickers with 100 career field goal attempts, the former Packer and Cardinal is last in accuracy.

Dallas set up Ken Willis for a hefty 39 field goal attempts and he finished third in the league in scoring. So, with a dozen kickers gone, it's appropriate to spend a pick on his probable replacement, **Brad Daluiso.** As a rookie with the Bills, he spent most of the season booming 37 percent of his kickoffs into the end zone for touchbacks.

His accuracy is unproven, though. In preseason and regular season action, Daluiso hit 7 of 9 field goals, with misses from 26 and 39 yards.

Kevin Butler was hurt by injuries last year — his own and those of Neal Anderson and Brad Muster. With Chicago's top runners shelved for most of the year with hamstring problems, the Bear running attack and offense sputtered and Butler scored only 89 points — down from 114. Butler's various injuries hurt his distance. He hit 4-of-7 from beyond 50 yards in 1990.

The Giants' 36-year-old **Matt Bahr** will see some challengers in training camp but should be able to hang on to his job. He hit a reliable 22 of 29 field goals last year, with two of the misses coming from 51 and 52 yards. New York in an off year still produced 101 kicking points.

If the Steelers can score 26 touchdowns this year, **Gary Anderson** will have a chance to surpass San Francisco's Tommy Davis as the all-time accuracy leader in extra points. Anderson has successfully converted 99.38 percent of his PATs (323-of-325). Of course, if he breaks the record, then he'll have to spend the rest of his career worrying that if he misses an extra point, it will take him another six years to catch Davis.

KICKERS

Cleveland's **Matt Stover** had a decent rookie season, hitting 16-of-22, including shots from 50 and 55 yards. He scored only 81 points, but the Browns look improved and have an easy schedule.

Seattle's **John Kasay** is one of the league's new breed of super kickers. He's got a cannon for a leg and connected on better than 80 percent of his 31 attempts — including a 54 yarder. However, the Seahawks look like they'll have serious problems moving the ball, and they play a killer schedule.

Ken Willis will try to become the first player in the history of the Tampa Bay franchise to score 100 points. He won't get 39 attempts like he did in Dallas, though. Willis was the NFL leader last year in field goals from beyond 50 yards, hitting 4-of-7.

Green Bay's **Chris Jacke** had an off year after a holdout, connecting on only 75 percent of his meager 24 attempts. The 1989 sixth-rounder has gone backwards in kicking points the last two years. His 85 points last year ranked 20th in the NFL.

THE BEST OF THE REST

Jason Staurovsky, Jets. A good kicker in New York would have been worth 140 points last year, because the Jets finished tied for first in the league with 43 attempts. Staurovsky has to beat out Raoul Allegre and Pat Leahy for the job, and he's also had injury problems.

Carlos Huerta, San Diego. The 12th-rounder was cool under fire at the University of Miami, while incumbent John Carney missed field goals that could have won or tied five games. The winner of this battle is a real sleeper since the Chargers play the NFL's easiest schedule.

Roman Anderson. The Oilers were trying to sign the former University of Houston kicker to a free agent contract when we went to press. If he nabs the Oiler placekicking job away from Al Del Greco, he'll be a solid scorer.

Fuad Reveiz, Minnesota. Limited range, and the Vikings are a team with middle-of-the-pack objectives. Certainly not a top-10 scorer.

Charlie Baumann, New England. As a rookie, hit 16-of-20 in exhibition and regular-season games with the Dolphins and Patriots. Two of Baumann's misses were from inside 40 yards, however.

John Carney, San Diego. The Chargers might have finished 9-7 instead of 4-12 if Carney hadn't blown five games with botched field goals. He may have saved his job by hitting a 54-yarder to beat Seattle.

UNMENTIONABLE

Tony Zendejas, Rams. The former Oiler became the first kicker ever to convert all of his field goal attempts in a season, but only five of his 17 attempts were from outside 37 yards. The Ram offense finished last in the NFL in attempts, so Tony Z finished 24th in scoring.

Dean Biasucci, Indianapolis. The Colts' offensive woes and Biasucci's career-worst accuracy helped make him the first full-time kicker ever to fail to score 60 points in a 16-game season.

Raoul Allegre, Jets. The kicking cousin of Jim McMahon. The injury-prone Allegre hasn't kicked a full 16-game season since 1985.

Greg Davis, Phoenix. Not many people realize that this son of a physics professor has used his scientific approach to kick an NFL-high seven 50-yard field goals the past three years. But Phoenix is doomed to a low-scoring last-place finish in the NFC East.

Jim Breech, Cincinnati. His range is only about 45 yards and the Bengals are one of the worst teams in football.

Pat Leahy, Jets. Now 41 years of age, Leahy's skills have eroded to the point where he couldn't kick for most major colleges. He was 0-of-6 from outside 40 yards and has a hip problem that may force retirement.

Chris Gardocki, Chicago. He came into the league as a combination placekicker-punter. Now he looks like neither.

Scott Norwood, Buffalo. His range is so limited, he'll be lucky to get a tryout with another team after the Bills cut him in training camp.

Joe Wood, Houston. The Air Force rookie has a five-year military commitment ahead of him. Check back in 1997.

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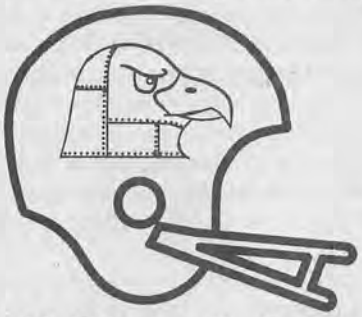

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THE FANTASY FOOTBALL ABSTRACT 1992

Rick Korch

Managing editor of *Pro Football Weekly*

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Depth and parity — the two words best describing this year's crop of tight ends.

The top nine tight ends available are almost interchangeable. All of these players look like locks to score at least four touchdowns, but none of them stand out as strong candidates to score more than six times. For that reason, we're not endorsing any as early-round picks as we did last year, when we listed Eric Green as the 20th player overall.

Green is our No. 1 tight end again this year, but there's not a world of difference between him and the next eight guys. Your best strategy may be to wait as long as you can before taking one of the top nine tight ends available.

And even if you miss out on the top nine, don't worry about it. Your fantasy franchise certainly isn't going to die with Ferrell Edmunds, Steve Jordan or Rodney Holman at tight end.

1 Pittsburgh's **Eric Green** didn't have a great season last year, but he was still able to lead all tight ends in scoring. The 1990 first-rounder has so much raw talent that we're making him our No. 1 tight end, even though the Steelers have scrapped their tight-end-based offense.

A prolonged holdout as a rookie, Green has caught 13 touchdowns in his 18 career starts. Last year he missed the entire preseason with a knee injury and then broke his ankle in practice and missed the final five games.

Green was plagued by more than injuries last year, however. He also came up with a couple of bonehead mistakes on the field. In a Monday night game against the Giants, he tied the game with a last-minute TD catch but drew a celebration penalty that helped set up the winning field goal. Three games later in a 20-13 loss at Denver, he dropped a fourth-down pass in the end zone with 41 seconds left.

Our biggest concern, however, is that the Steelers have fired offensive coordinator Joe Walton and will go with a more conventional passing attack. In the last two years, an amazing 19 of Pittsburgh's 40 touchdown passes have gone to tight ends. That percentage will certainly decline.

The Steelers aren't exactly stocked with great receivers, however. As long as Green is healthy he'll play an important role in the offense as a receiver. You just don't ignore a guy who's 6-foot-5 and 270 pounds and runs like a deer.

"If you had an Erector set and somebody said, 'Make me a tight end,' this is who you'd make," said Sam Rutigliano, who coached Green at Liberty Baptist. "He's Mark Bavaro in a bigger package." That's why he's still the safe pick at No. 1.

2 Since he came into the league in 1988, Philadelphia's **Keith Jackson** has caught more passes for more yards and more touchdowns than any tight end in the game. Now he wants to be paid accordingly.

Jackson just completed a four-year $2.25 million contract. The three-time Pro Bowler could be a holdout — he tried to renegotiate in 1989 and didn't finally report until two games into the season. In other words, these negotiations could be fierce.

When he's playing, Jackson's a force. He caught 48 balls and scored five times (including a 73 yarder), even though the Eagles were without Randall Cunningham. Jackson caught three of the Eagle quarterback's five touchdown passes in the preseason, and it looked like the combo was in for a banner year.

By the way, draft Jackson and you also get the only tight end who's got his own rap album. *K-Jack-N-America* was released last fall. If he doesn't get K-jacked around by the Eagles financially, Jackson should be a reliable scorer.

3 New England's **Marv Cook** hasn't released any albums, but he caught the most passes by a tight end in five years last season, hauling in 82 receptions — 23 more than any other tight end.

You don't need to worry about this guy getting left out of the offense. The Patriots rarely use their running backs as receivers, so New England tight ends caught an NFL-high 32 percent of their team's passes. Cook was also the co-leader in receiving touchdowns for his team with three TD catches.

Cook was good for five touchdowns in 1990. He and Green are the only tight ends who have led their team in touchdown catches the last two years. The 1989 third-rounder actually comes with fewer question marks than Green or Jackson; he may be the safest pick at the position.

◀ **Marv Cook.**

Tight Ends

4 **Jay Novacek** has to rank as one of the all-time steals of the Plan B free agency system. The former Cardinal has been the bread-and-butter receiver of the Dallas passing attack for two years.

Novacek, who was also a Cowboy in college at Wyoming, collected two of the four 100-yard games produced by tight ends last year, caught the game-winning touchdown in the playoff game at Chicago, and was named to his first Pro Bowl.

Novacek also deserves some kind of an award for consistency. In his first season in Dallas, Novacek caught 59 passes for 657 yards and four touchdowns. Last year, he caught 59 passes for 664 yards and four touchdowns.

5 It's taken a while, but the transition of the Raiders' **Ethan Horton** from running back to tight end is complete. In his first full year as the clear-cut No. 1 guy; the 1985 first rounder of the Chiefs emerged to lead the Raiders with 53 receptions and five touchdowns.

After the catch, Horton still retains some of his running back ability. He was the only tight end in the league last season to have two receptions of at least 50 yards — including a 51-yard catch and run on a screen pass against the Seahawks that was climaxed by an athletic dive into the end zone.

6 Buffalo's **Keith McKeller** was a mild disappointment last year. He caught 44 passes, but only three went for touchdowns — down from five in 1990 — and he dropped a few passes, including a big one in the Super Bowl.

However, the former college basketball player is the main receiving tight end on a team that produced 39 passing touchdowns last year. And the Bills look a little thin at wide receiver — especially if 36-year-old James Lofton goes down with an injury. It's certainly hard to envision a scenario where McKeller doesn't score at least three TDs again.

7 Don't be scared to draft first-rounder **Johnny Mitchell** of the Jets. History clearly proves that rookie tight ends can step right in and be productive at the NFL level. Three of the last seven tight ends taken in the first round have been touchdown leaders in their first season — including another Nebraska rookie, Junior Miller of Atlanta, in 1980.

Mitchell has the same type of size and physical abilities as Eric Green. He's 6-foot-5 and 260 pounds but is able to clock in the 4.68 range in the 40-yard dash — that's faster than many wide receivers.

8 **Derek Brown** of the Giants was selected with the pick before Mitchell in the draft. He has all the same potential as his fellow New York rookie, but we're downgrading him behind Mitchell because of the competition he'll face for playing time.

While Mitchell will be handed the Jets' starting job from day one, Brown will have to unseat veteran Howard Cross, who caught 20 balls and scored twice last year. The Giants also used their third-round selection on a tight end. If Brown doesn't come to contract terms quickly, he could be a slow developer.

9 San Francisco tight end **Brent Jones** played a role in a controversy that affected results of fantasy playoff games across the country. In week 15, boxscores across the country read that Jones had scored on a 3-yard reception versus Seattle. Actually, however, the pass went to running back Harry Sydney. Sydney wears No. 24; Jones wears No. 84. If your league never caught wind of the error, your league champion might be an imposter.

The misprint in Seattle was the closest Jones came to scoring last year, but look for that to change. Jones was slowed by a knee injury last year and Joe Montana wasn't quarterbacking. The pair hooked up five times in 1990.

10 Minnesota's **Steve Jordan** had his three-year string of catching at least three touchdown passes snapped, but he was still able to haul in 57 receptions for 638 yards. The 31-year-old has been named to six straight Pro Bowls.

New coach Dennis Green plans to alter Jordan's role. He'll be moved to a pass-catching H-back role, and Mike Tice will serve as the blocking tight end. Jordan should be fine, but with question marks surrounding the Viking offense, he's not as safe a pick as he's been in the past.

OTHER QUALITY PROSPECTS

Miami's **Ferrell Edmunds** caught only two touchdown passes last year, but he missed most of the year because of a holdout and deep thigh bruise. While he's never caught more than three TDs in any of his four seasons, the former third rounder still has the potential to lead all tight ends in scoring.

Cincinnati's **Rodney Holman,** like Jordan, is a golden oldie. In his 11th season, Holman was still able to average 14.4 yards per catch on his 31 receptions — that's a better average than speedy teammate Eddie Brown. Holman averaged seven touchdowns during the '88 and '89 seasons, but it will be hard for him to match that production on a team that's probably doomed for the AFC Central cellar.

Four of Redskin **Terry Orr's** 10 receptions went for touchdowns during a late-season scoring spree. The former 10th rounder has been cut four times and was left unprotected, but he's still Washington's top receiving tight end. Plan B signee Gary Wilkins is another blocker-type to line up beside the Hogs.

Tampa Bay's **Ron Hall** should benefit more than any other Buc from the arrival of Sam Wyche. When Wyche was in Cincinnati, he turned Rodney Holman into a consistent Pro Bowl performer. Hall is a talented all-around performer who caught 31 balls last year.

Another NFC Central tight end who'll likely be utilized more under a new coaching staff is Green Bay's **Jackie Harris.** In his second year, he moved past Ed West as the Packers main tight end.

THE BEST OF THE REST

The Raiders hit gold in the 10th round with **Andrew Glover.** The 6-foot-6 converted college basketball star looks like he could develop into a great tight end in a few years.

Tom Flores says the Seahawks will throw to the tight end this year, so **Travis McNeal** could match his three-year receiving total of 36 catches.

Only one of Chicago Bear **James Thornton's** 17 catches went for a touchdown last year, but he was hobbbled by foot and ankle problems all year.

Robert Awalt has gone AWOL as a fantasy scorer since scoring 10 times in the '87-'88 seasons for the Cardinals, but Denver paid a bundle to get him. The Broncos say they'll use him in a pass-catching H-back role, and the team doesn't have any good wide receivers.

Craig McEwen led San Diego tight ends in receptions and touchdowns last year, but he's practically rendered obsolete by the team's move to a new two-back offense. Look for **Derrick Walker** to be the starter.

Even though three different NFL teams scored six touchdowns on returns last year, we're not recommending that fantasy coaches utilize an early round pick to acquire their services on draft day. There's too much chance involved and we don't see a defense that's head-and-shoulders above the rest.

The Atlanta Falcons come closest. They've scored 14 touchdowns in the last two season, including eight from beyond 50 yards. Cornerback/kick returner Deion Sanders will likely miss half the season, so we're not endorsing them as a top-40 pick like we did last year.

There are never any locks in the world of scoring on fumble, interception and kick returns. The Dolphins were the second-highest scoring defense in 1990, but they scored only one time last year. Six of the nine teams scoring four or five touchdowns in 1990 were below average in scoring last year.

We're recommending Atlanta's defense and special teams as a top-50 pick this year — a fifth-round draft pick in an eight-team league or a fourth-rounder in a 12-team league. We like six defenses after the Falcons. Chances are, one of them will be available for you late in your draft.

The rankings below assume the scoring system of six points for touchdowns scored on interception, fumble, kick and blocked kick returns, as well as fake punts and field goals. Safeties count for two points, and all scores from 50 or more yards are doubled in value.

◀ **Deion Sanders.**

1 Can the **Atlanta Falcons** still be big time scorers without their Prime Time performer? Atlanta has scored 14 touchdowns in the past two season, but they'll have to play about half of this season without explosive Deion Sanders.

Sanders and another secondary starter, Brian Jordan, have been so successful on the baseball diamond that the Falcons probably won't get their services until about midseason. Sanders was hitting .330 in May and looked like a shoo-in for the All-Star game.

Prime Time apparently is going Half Time. "I've accomplished my goal in that other thing," the fourth-year cornerback says. "I'm a full-time baseball player." Sanders has scored five of the team's touchdowns in the last two years — from an average distance of 74 yards.

But we still like the Falcons as the No. 1 defense. Take out Sanders' five touchdowns and they've still scored more touchdowns on returns than any other team since Jerry Glanville became coach two years ago. Atlanta has blocked a league-high 16 kicks in the last two years.

And Sanders will at least be available during the later part of the year. He may even play a role in deciding fantasy playoff games, as Atlanta hosts Dallas in week 16 in a Monday night game. What better time for a Prime Time player to strut his stuff?

2 The **Philadelphia Eagles** made a big acquistion when they hired Larry Pasquale to coach their special teams. The Eagles have always had a nice scoring defense — 11 TDs in the last three years — but haven't scored on a kick return since Gregg Garrity returned a punt 70 yards against the Raiders in 1986.

That may change under Pasquale. The former Charger and Jet assistant has a reputation as the best in the business. In the past six years, 97 punts and kickoffs have been returned for touchdowns. Pasquale's units have eight of them — over double the average of the rest of the NFL.

And even without a kick return touchdown, the Eagles figure to have plenty of opportunities to return fumbles and interceptions for touchdowns. Philadelphia had an NFL-high 55 sacks last year

and tied with the New Orleans Saints for the league lead with 48 takeaways.

With All-Pro players like Reggie White, Jerome Brown, Clyde Simmons and Seth Joyner bearing down on opposing quarterbacks, the Eagles are a safe bet to get at least their share of touchdowns on returns.

3 If you're a big Desmond Howard fan, the best way to incorporate him into your fantasy team's lineup is by drafting the **Washington Redskins'** defense and special teams.

It will probably take a year or so before the Heisman Trophy winner plays a huge role in the Redskin passing attack, but he could be a force immediately as a kickoff and punt returner. At Michigan, Howard averaged 27.5 yards per kickoff return (one touchdown) and 15.7 yards per punt return (one touchdown). NFL coverage units are good enough that you can never guarantee a player will return a kick for a touchdown, but Howard looks as likely to take one back as anybody.

And even if there are no kick returns, Washington's defense could provide a healthy supply of TDs. The Redskins intercepted 27 passes last season (two touchdowns) and finished third in the league in sacks.

4 Jack Pardee has quietly and quickly transformed the **Houston Oilers** into perhaps the league's most underrated defensive team. The Oilers were one of only three teams to finish in the top five in sacks and takeaways last year, and they shared the league lead with six touchdowns on returns.

Dallas also returned two interceptions, a fumble and a blocked punt for touchdowns. Figure in the bonus points for their three touchdowns from beyond 50 yards, and they were the highest scoring defensive team in the league.

If you follow our drafting strategy of not taking a defense until the later rounds, you may end up with the **Cleveland Browns.** The Browns have some kind of mystique when it comes to touchdowns on returns. Cleveland has a six-year streak of scoring at least four touchdowns on returns. Only one other team, Philadelphia, has a streak of even three years.

Rookie Eric Turner showed in his first home game that he has the stuff to help maintain the tradition, returning an interception 42 yards for one of the team's five touchdowns. Cleveland was also the only team in the league to score on a fake field goal last year. Although he's unsigned and bickering with the team, Eric Metcalf is among the most dangerous kick returners in the league.

THE BEST OF THE REST

Mel Gray of the **Detroit Lions** made NFL history last year by leading the league in both punt returns and kickoff returns. No player had ever done that before. The former Plan B pickup from New Orleans returned a punt 78 yards for a touchdown at Green Bay that helped Detroit clinch the NFC Central Division title. The Lions defense added four other touchdowns, including a 96-yard interception return by Ray Crockett against Dallas.

Special Teams

Not bad for a defense that was in complete disarray when Pardee was named coach in 1990. The Oilers had allowed 412 points in Jerry Glanville's final season.

Houston has more quality depth on the defensive line than any team in the league, with Ray Childress, William Fuller, Sean Jones, Doug Smith, Lee Williams and youngster Jeff Alm. It's no wonder you always hear about possible trades with the Dolphins.

The pressure from the defensive line creates lots of opportunities for talented secondary guys like Cris Dishman, Bo Orlando and Bubba McDowell. At one point Dishman had a fumble recovery or interception in seven straight games. The probable AFC Central champs are a safe bet to get at least four or five touchdowns.

OTHER QUALITY PROSPECTS

The unthinkable happened last year. Marty Schottenheimer's **Kansas City Chiefs** failed to score three touchdowns on returns — breaking a five-year streak. Schottenheimer's teams in Cleveland and Kansas City have always been among the league leaders in scoring on both defensive and special teams plays, averaging over four touchdowns per year for half a decade.

It could be a few years before the Chiefs score as few as two touchdowns again. Their takeaway and sack totals were off their 1990 league-leading numbers, but Kansas City is loaded with defensive talent. And the Chiefs have two dangerous kick returners in Harvey Williams and rookie Dale Carter.

Alexander Wright has been a bust as a wide receiver, but he's helped make the **Dallas Cowboys'** special teams special. Wright, who runs a 4.1 40-yard dash, is the only player in the league with kickoff return touchdowns in both 1990 and 1991 — and he didn't return kicks for the first half of the season last year.

Kelvin Martin also returned a punt for a touchdown as the Cowboys were the only team in the league to score on both kinds of kick return.

One of the potential fringe benefits of drafting the **Los Angeles Raiders** is a possible Rocket launching of Raghib Ismail from Toronto. Ismail wants to play for the Raiders, and owner Al Davis is trying to overturn a league rule that forbids players from participating in both the CFL and the NFL. Even without Ismail, the Raiders should be at least average. A healthy Tim Brown is once again a dangerous punt returner. Los Angeles scored both of its two touchdowns last year in the same game, however.

The **New Orleans Saints** provide a well-rounded package for fantasy teams. Although the Saints scored only three times last year, they finished tied for first in takeaways and ranked third in the league with 50 sacks. With linebackers like Pat Swilling, Rickey Jackson, Sam Mills and Vaughn Johnson, big plays are bound to happen.

The **Seattle Seahawks** tried to make their good defense great in the offseason by trading for former Viking Keith Millard, the NFL's defensive MVP in 1989. Even if Millard's knee doesn't hold up, the Hawks have a solid front seven and one of the best secondaries in the league. Seattle's cornerbacking pair of Patrick Hunter and James Jefferson provided such tight coverage that they were beaten for only one touchdown pass last year.

With Bruce Smith back, the **Buffalo Bills** could return to greatness. They scored only three times last year after finishing tied for second with five touchdowns in 1990. Their punt blocking teams have the potential to be the best in the league.

The **New York Giants** scored only one touchdown after consecutive seasons of four touchdowns, but one constant remains: Dave Meggett. In each of his three years in the the league, the speedy scat-back has returned a punt for a touchdown. With linebacker Lawrence Taylor and nose tackle Erik Howard healthy, the defense will be vastly improved.

Atlanta Falcons

Maybe the undoing of Jerry Glanville in Atlanta, as in Houston, will be an eroding defense.

Glanville led his Houston team to the playoffs three straight years but was fired after his team allowed 51 touchdowns and 412 points. In Atlanta, we're seeing the same kind of trend. The Falcons finished 10-6 last year, but they gave up points almost as fast as they scored them.

The Falcons couldn't stop the run or the pass last year and gave up over 21 points per game. Six of the eight teams that gave up more points than Atlanta were the last-place teams in each division.

The Falcons' defensive line, at an average weight of 256 pounds, is the lightest in football. Yet, Atlanta ignored this need area in both Plan B and the draft — taking one defensive lineman in the 11th round.

And the strength of the defense, the secondary, could become a weakness in a hurry if Deion Sanders and Brian Jordan do the expected and stick with baseball. Atlanta allowed a league-high 28 TD passes last year *with* these guys. Can you imagine what will happen if they don't report until midseason?

The Falcons high-powered offense could have its work cut out.

QUARTERBACK. Chris Miller probably got more out of his bye week than any other quarterback in the NFL last year.

The Falcons limped into their rest week with a 2-3 record, including two losses at home. That's when they decided to scratch any ideas of running the football and go to their four-receiver Red Gun offense full-time. The results were dramatic — for the team and for Miller.

Until the switch in the offense, the 1987 first-rounder had struggled, throwing five touchdown passes and nine interceptions in five games. After the week off, Miller became one of the most productive fantasy quarterbacks in the entire league. The former Oregon Duck threw 21 touchdown passes in his final 10 games.

Miller posted better numbers than even Jim Kelly after the Falcons supercharged their offense with the switch to the Red Gun. The only quarterback who outscored Miller during the final 11 weeks of the season was Washington's Mark Rypien.

Miller, who'll be 27 when the season starts, is just coming into his own as the leader of the Falcons. When Atlanta came back to beat Green Bay after Miller staggered out of the locker room with IV holes in each arm and a 102-degree fever, he was able to make teammates and fans forget that he was 11-33 in his first 44 starts for Atlanta. "The guys respected me a lot more after that," he said.

Miller is blessed with a receiving corps that's about as deep and talented as any in the league. The combination should make for another big year.

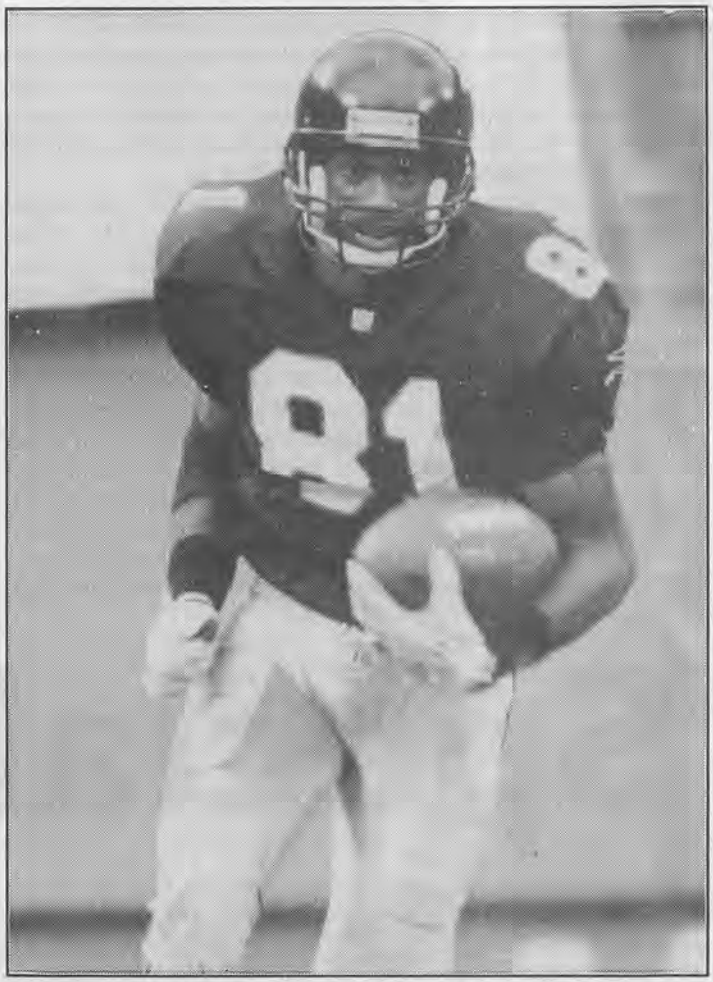
Backup Billy Joe Tolliver could be a decent pickup if Miller gets hurt. Brett Favre was traded to Green Bay.

RUNNING BACK. Pity the foolish coaches who draft rookie Tony Smith thinking he's a franchise-type fantasy back. They obviously don't know anything about Glanville's coaching methods.

Examine the Man in Black's coaching history — going all the way back to 1985 in Houston — and you'll see that he's coached plenty of good running backs. His philosophy, however, has always been to shuttle them in and out, never featuring one guy. Notice that the Falcons were led in rushing by five different backs in their 18 games last year. The seven rushing TDs were scored by four different guys.

Glanville isn't going to make Smith, the first tailback taken in the draft, a 1,000-yard runner. More likely, he'll do what he did in Houston for years — send one back at the defense for a half, then come in with a fresh-legged changeup pitch in the third quarter. It usually doesn't add up to squat fantasy numbers for anybody.

"We like to alternate backs and we like our backs to give defenses different problems," Glanville said just minutes after drafting Smith.



▲ **Michael Haynes' 13 TDs came from an average of 44 yards.**

The Falcons were the only team in the NFL without a 450-yard rusher last year. Steve Broussard, who had two 100-yard games but cracked 40 in only three others, came closest with 449 yards. He's been injury prone since the Falcons took him in the first round in 1990.

You can be sure that Erric Pegram and Keith Jones will also be on Glanville's merry-go-round of ballcarriers. Jones started three of the first four games before injuring his back. Pegram had a couple of big games before the Falcons moved permanently to the Red Gun. The Falcons have so many running backs they waived troubled Mike Rozier.

Smith does become the most desirable back on Atlanta's roster because he's the best pure runner and he's got good size (215 pounds), making him the most likely back to get the 1-yard call. At Southern Mississippi, Smith returned two punts and two kickoffs for touchdowns and averaged 4.6 yards per carry.

Don't expect him to be a Barry Sanders or Emmitt Smith, however. If he were a sure-fire NFL star he would have been drafted by running-back-hungry Pittsburgh or Seattle.

RECEIVER. It's hard to imagine what the Falcons had in mind when they signed unprotected free agent Drew Hill away from Houston. Maybe it was just a $1.3 million gag Glanville wanted to play on his old boss. The addition of the 35-year-old certainly hurts Houston a lot more than it helps Atlanta.

Hill projects as an inside slot receiver in Atlanta's version of the run-and-shoot, but it's hard to see how he'll get on the field. All-Pro Andre

Rison starts in one slot. Mike Pritchard, perhaps the best rookie receiver in the league last year, starts at the other and could be in for a breakout year.

Hill, barring injuries and trades, won't be scoring many touchdowns this year. So why does Atlanta make the Plan B move?

"We added to an already existing strength," director of pro scouting Chuck Conner told the Atlanta Constitution, "but in this offense, you can never have too many good (receivers)."

The outside receivers aren't shabby either. Michael Haynes used his 4.35 speed to blow by defenses for 11 touchdowns last year, only three of which came from inside 30 yards. You can be sure the Saints' defensive coordinators are studying a lot of film on him after the way he destroyed New Orleans twice in the Superdome last year.

Tony Jones or George Thomas will probably start as the other outside receiver. The Falcons also have former first-rounder Shawn Collins, James Milling and Jason Phillips. Injuries won't be a problem.

Even though they're only two of the four wide receivers on the field, Rison and Haynes were as productive as any pair of wideouts in the league last year, combining for 23 touchdowns. Nineteen of those scores came in the final nine games, and then they blitzed the Saints for three touchdowns in the playoffs. "People can't just talk about ... the Rices and Taylors ... Haynes and Rison are right there with anybody," Redskin cornerback Darrell Green says.

Look for Pritchard, the '91 first rounder, to catch more than two touchdowns this year, but there's no reason the Falcons can't have three productive receivers. Atlanta wideouts caught an NFL-high 89 percent of their team's passes last year and finished with a league-high 28 TDs.

KICKER. Norm Johnson shouldn't have any problem adjusting to the new Georgia Dome. He spent eight years kicking in the Kingdome with Seattle before getting picked up by Atlanta two weeks into the '91 season.

But after last year, Johnson might want to stay outside. He had his best season since 1984, with his only misses coming from 47, 49, 49 and 53 yards. The UCLA graduate has a current streak of 18 straight field goals inside 45 yards — ironic as he was dumped by the Seahawks after a two-year accuracy slump. "I used to hear about being a dome kicker and how you could never kick outside," Johnson said during a streak of 15 straight last year. "I think it's pretty funny that I could kick 13 straight here outside and on grass."

Johnson scored 90 points. He probably would have cracked the top 10 in kicking points if he had played a full season.

DEFENSE. The Falcons have scored an NFL-high 14 touchdowns on kickoff, punt, interception and fumble returns the last two years. That doesn't mean you should be scared to start your own fantasy players when they match up against Atlanta though. The Falcons had one of the worst defenses in the NFL last year and it will get a lot worse if Deion Sanders and Brian Jordan stay with baseball.

Even with Sanders, the Falcons allowed an NFL-high 28 touchdown passes last year. They couldn't stop the run either, getting bulldozed for 4.2 yards a carry and finishing 23rd in the league.

1991 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

Passing	Att	Comp	Yards	Pct	TD	Int	'90 TD	'89 TD
Miller	413	220	3103	53.3	26	18	17	16
Falcons	500	260	3634	52.0	30	22	21	17
Opp.	481	252	3532	52.4	28	19	31	19

Rushing	Att	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD	'90 TD	'89 TD
Broussard	99	449	4.5	36	4	4	-
Rozier	96	361	3.8	19	0	3	2
Pegram	101	349	3.5	34	1	-	-
Falcons	410	1664	4.1	36	6	11	11
Opp.	466	1953	4.2	t65	13	11	26

Receiving	No	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD	'90 TD	'89 TD
Rison	81	976	12.0	t39	12	10	4
Haynes	50	1122	22.4	t80	11	0	4
Pritchard	50	624	12.5	29	2	-	-
Thomas	28	365	13.0	37	2	1	0
Dixon	12	146	12.2	23	1	2	5
Falcons	260	3634	14.0	t80	30	21	17
Opp.	252	3532	14.0	t97	28	31	19

Kicking	XP-A	FG-A	Lg	Pts	'90 Pts	'89 Pts
Johnson	38/39	19/23	50	95	102	72
Falcons	40/42	21/26	50	108	106	99
Opp.	41/43	13/26	51	80	99	141

	at K.C. 3-14	Minn. 19-20	at S.D. 13-10	Rdrs. 21-17	N.O. 6-27	at S.F. 39-34	at Phoe. 10-16	Rams 31-14	S.F. 17-14	at Wash. 17-56	T.B. 43-7	at N.O. 23-20	G.B. 35-31	at Rams 31-14	Sea. 26-13	at Dall. 27-31
Miller	9-21-4-110	27-41-1-300 3,20	16-33-1-188 14	17-31-3-242 25,46	14-30-0-163	16-28-0-208 27,7,1	13-35-4-220 21	14-19-0-237 19,20,55	1-9-1-11	ribs Questnble	14-23-0-212 39,12,15	15-31-3-260 80,18	12-18-0-186 20,16	19-28-1-271 6,9	14-27-0-160 4,30	19-39-0-325 67,26,43
Tolliver	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5-5-0-45	11-22-0-120 3,44	14-31-1-243 75,15	-	-	8-19-1-195	1-3-0-4	-	-
Broussard	1-1	1-3	20-101	5-7 25 catch	3-3	10-104	7-34	knee Questnble	6-10	3-14	10-57 5	-	9-26 3	15-48 1,1	9-41	broken leg
Rozier	-	-	-	-	4-16	2-9	5-30	16-54	16-55	11-45	8-27	20-63	knee Questnble	1-(-1)	11-49	2-14
Rison	2-11	4-25	7-95	4-50	1-9	6-69 7,1	5-91	5-75 20	7-62 3	7-72 15	6-89 39,12,15	3-25	8-124 20,16	6-67 5	3-35	6-74 28
Haynes	1-16	2-25	2-31	4-62 46	2-13	5-94 27	2-35	4-110 55	1-44 44	2-105 75	3-54	6-187 80,18	2-29	6-112 9	4-60 30	5-146 67,43
Pritchard	1-17	9-82	3-30 14	2-40	4-58	3-37	4-71 21	5-53	2-13	3-51	2-26	1-12	4-60	2-27	2-17	3-30
Thomas	1-8	7-128 20	1-9	3-39	3-54	-	-	-	1-6	-	2-21	1-8	3-29	2-24	4-39 4	ankle doubtful
Johnson	free agent	free agent	28,36 miss: 53	- miss: 47	- miss: XP	29,43,44,30 miss: XP	29	44 -	29 -	31 -	31,49 -	25,27,50 -	- -	21 -	42 -	25,29 miss: 49,49
Others	Daluiso 20 FG	Wilkins 3 catch; Daluiso 23 FG safety		18 fumble return	23 fumble return	100 kickoff return		Chaffey 5 run; Dixon 19 catch			75 fumble return; safety		16 fumble return; Pegram 4 run		48 interception return; safety	

Buffalo Bills

The only fault fantasy coaches may have been able to find with the Bills during the past two years is that they've been too good. Buffalo keeps clinching its division title before the season is over, and Marv Levy rewards his starters by giving them the final Sunday off.

It's a serious problem. Thurman Thomas has scored 25 touchdowns the last two seasons. His combined stats in the final regular season games: five carries for zero yards. And Jim Kelly skipped last year's season finale, citing a non-existent knee injury. The NFL's top touchdown-scoring team keeps pulling up lame at the finish line.

It's an issue for both fantasy leagues and the NFL. The league office sent a memo to all teams last year prior to the final games urging them to field competitive teams. The Bills didn't listen, so they ruined thousands of fantasy championship games — and cost the Bears the NFC Central title.

Don't blacklist the Bills, however. Your first priority should be to *reach* your championship game. You can worry about finding a way to win it once you get there.

QUARTERBACK. The Bills' no-huddle was slowed down by Denver and Washington in the position, but it still has to be considered the top passing offense in football. Buffalo produced 39 passing touchdowns last year, the most by an NFL team since San Francisco's 44 in 1987.

Jim Kelly has been virtually unstoppable since the Bills went to the offense, putting up numbers that compare to his USFL stats with the Houston Gamblers. The 32-year-old has thrown 64 touchdown passes in his last 31 games, including a career-high 33 last year.

And remember, Kelly's big numbers came in a year when scoring was down league-wide. He threw more than twice as many TD passes as all but seven NFL quarterbacks. The former Miami Hurricane wasn't just the top quarterback, he was arguably the most valuable fantasy player last season — although you have to factor in his decision to skip the final game to rest for the playoffs.

Kelly has been injured and missed a couple of games in each of the past three seasons, but he's a fairly safe bet to stay in one piece. Buffalo gives him good protection, and he rarely gets tackled on scrambles because he's not a scrambler. He ran for a total of just 45 yards last year.

The only negative we see on Kelly is that the Bills' no-huddle offense didn't run quite as smoothly in the second half of the season. Kelly threw 12 interceptions in the Bills' final eight games and nine more in the playoffs. You can rest assured there are four AFC East defensive coordinators who have taken a close look at that film in the offseason.

Also note that five of Kelly's six 300-yard passing days and all five of his touchdown passes over 50 yards came in the first half of the season. The schedule is also a little harder. Last year it was the easiest in the NFL. This year, it's dotted with some tough road games — including New Orleans, San Francisco and Houston.

You won't see another 39 passing touchdowns by the Bills this year, but Kelly's still an explosive performer.

Backup Frank Reich is deadly in relief, producing 15 touchdowns versus only four interceptions in limited duty the past three years. In 1989, when Kelly got hurt, a majority of fans participating in a radio poll actually said they wanted Reich to remain the full-time starter.

RUNNING BACK. Thurman Thomas became the first player since Jim Brown to lead the league in combined rushing/receiving yards three straight years. He has also scored at least 12 TDs three straight years.

Thomas is only 198 pounds, so you worry about him getting hurt when he's handling the ball 350 times a season; but at least he doesn't take an extreme between-the-tackles pounding, because the Bills keep the field spread with their no-huddle.

Thomas has scored only two of Buffalo's last 11 1-yard touchdown runs, but it hardly matters. He catches about 50 passes a year, for close to a half dozen TDs, and will score on plenty of runs in the 5-to-20 yard range. Give him a little daylight and he'll go all the way. Against New England in 1990, he went 80 yards for a touchdown.

▲ **Age and defenses couldn't catch James Lofton last year.**

"I've never seen such a complete running back with those kind of moves, quickness, speed, burst, strength, cutting and receiving ability," Pittsburgh coach Chuck Noll said.

As with Jim Kelly, Thomas' backup becomes a top-level performer in the event of injury. Kenneth Davis ran for 208 yards and two touchdowns in two games after Thomas sprained his ankle against Indianapolis. The coaches love the way he keeps both arms wrapped around the football. Davis was the only back in the league with at least 150 attempts who didn't fumble even once all year.

Jamie Mueller, who missed last year with back problems, will likely return as the blocking fullback, replacing disappointing Carwell Gardner. Neither one figures to be a big scorer.

RECEIVER. You would never know it by looking at their numbers last season, but wide receiver is a potentially troubling area for the Bills.

Pencil in Pro Bowler Andre Reed, of course, at one receiving position. No problem there. But James Lofton, at 36 years of age, is the oldest starting receiver in the league. And No. 3 man Don Beebe has been inconsistent, injury prone and dropped three passes in the Super Bowl — including a couple of potential TDs. After Beebe, all that's left is kick returner Al Edwards.

If Lofton were to pull a hamstring, the entire Buffalo air attack would

be left looking very thin; and at his age, is a healthy Lofton even capable of another 1,072-yard eight-touchdown season? He slowed as the '91 season transpired, with five of his touchdowns, including his four long-range balls, coming in the first half of the season.

It's essentially a make-or-break season for Beebe, who caught 10 of his 32 passes and four of his six touchdowns in the 52-34 rout over Pittsburgh. If he plans to succeed Lofton as a starter, he'll need to show he can be a factor every week. He's finished each of the last two seasons on injured reserve with broken bones — a leg in '90, a collarbone in '91.

Considering all the question marks, Reed becomes one of the safest bets at wide receiver in the entire league. In this high-powered offense, it's hard to draw up a scenario where he doesn't score eight touchdowns. The team's leading receiver for the last six years had 81 catches for 1,113 yards and 10 touchdowns last time out.

The tight ends split up seven TDs last year. Pass catcher Keith McKeller scored three times, and blocker-types Pete Metzelaars and Butch Rolle had two each. Rolle signed with Phoenix after being left unprotected, but the Bills picked up Ed Thomas from Tampa Bay.

KICKER. If you hear Marv Levy saying anything during training camp about Steve Christie and Scott Norwood battling an "open competition" for the placekicker spot, don't believe him. Norwood has kicked his last football in regular-season NFL action.

It's hardly believable that Christie, who's only 24, was left available on Plan B by Tampa Bay — even if he did have a gentlemen's agreement not to sign with another team. Christie has the highest field goal accuracy percentage among all active kickers, including 2-for-2 in attempts from beyond 50 yards.

Norwood, on the other hand, was one of two kickers to convert fewer than half of his attempts in the 30-39 yard range. His power is so limited, the Bills had Brad Daluiso handle kickoffs last year.

DEFENSE. Maybe the best defense isn't a good offense. The Bills' offense played the no-huddle and moved the ball down the field so fast there was a league-leading amont of yardage and plays in Buffalo's games. The Bills and their opponents combined to run 200 more plays than the NFL average, and they went for an additional 1,900 yards.

The Buffalo run defense looked terrible on paper last year, but it had to operate without Bruce Smith and Jeff Wright for most of the year. Against the pass, the Bills are among the league's toughest — and will only be better if Smith can return 100 percent from his knee problems. Buffalo allowed only nine TD passes in its final 15 games.

As scorers, the Buffalo defense/special teams rank among the best in the league on the basis of their takeaway and sack production and one of the premier kick-blocking units.

1991 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

Passing	Att	Comp	Yards	Pct	TD	Int	'90 TD	'89 TD
Kelly	474	304	3844	64.1	33	17	24	25
Reich	41	27	305	65.9	6	2	2	7
Bills	516	332	4140	64.3	39	19	28	32
Opp.	536	299	3660	55.8	12	23	17	14

Rushing	Att	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD	'90 TD	'89 TD
Thomas	288	1407	4.9	33	7	11	6
Davis	129	624	4.8	t78	4	4	1
Bills	505	2381	4.7	t78	16	20	15
Opp.	519	2044	3.9	t56	20	13	15

Receiving	No	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD	'90 TD	'89 TD
Reed	81	1113	13.7	55	10	8	9
Thomas	62	631	10.2	t50	5	2	6
Lofton	57	1072	18.8	t77	8	4	3
McKeller	44	434	9.9	t29	3	5	2
Beebe	32	414	12.9	t34	6	1	2
Edwards	22	228	10.4	t33	1	0	-
Bills	332	4140	12.5	t77	39	28	32
Opp.	299	3660	12.2	t78	12	17	14

Kicking	XP-A	FG-A	Lg	Pts	'90 Pts	'89 Pts
Norwood	56/58	18/29	52	110	110	115
Opp.	33/34	27/35	53	114	83	111

	Mia. 35-31	Pitt. 52-34	at Jets 23-20	at T.B. 17-10	Chi. 35-20	at K.C. 6-33	Ind. 42-6	Cin. 35-16	N.E. 22-17	at G.B. 34-24	at Mia. 41-27	at N.E. 13-16	Jets 24-13	at Rdrs. 30-27	at Ind. 35-7	Det. 14-17
Kelly	29-39-1-381 **54,50**	31-43-2-363 **53,34,14, 14,11,4**	27-37-1-275 **7,15**	20-35-1-322 **29**	19-29-0-303 **33,2,77**	17-23-0-189	3-5-0-44	18-27-3-392 **74,51,48,24,5**	14-28-2-237 **13**	17-35-0-232 **1 run,6,12**	20-28-0-185 **10,5,23**	26-44-4-204 **10**	21-38-1-251 **16,27**	33-52-1-347 **9,9**	9-11-0-119 **14,11,23**	knee Questnble
Reich	2-2-0-16 **3**	0-0-0-0	-	-	-	-	6-7-1-76 **11,5**	0-0-0-0		0-1-0-0	-	-	-	-	4-6-0-47 **4**	15-25-1-166 **7,20**
Thomas	25-165 **50 catch, 7**	15-107	11-62 **15**	17-54	25-117 **11**	13-51	20-117 **14,7**	14-63 **5 catch**	32-126 **15**	24-106 **5**	23-135 **10 catch,1**	25-89 **10 catch**	23-124	15-57	6-34	ankle Questnble
Davis	1-5	17-56	1-1	-	5-25	1-14	9-108 **78**	1-2	4-13	5-19	25-98	4-51	5-13 **4**	4-12 **1**	22-90 **14 catch,1**	25-118
Reed	11-154 **54**	9-118 **14**	3-26 **7**	3-69	4-33	5-84	2-34	5-80 **24**	5-121	4-32 **6**	8-80 **5,23**	7-63	1-16 **16**	8-107	4-65 **23**	2-31 **7**
Lofton	5-77	4-78 **53**	5-79	5-90	4-122 **77**	1-11	2-22 **11**	8-220 **74,48**	1-6	6-114	2-12	1-12	5-109 **27**	5-72 **9**	3-48 **11**	foot Questnble
Beebe	5-55	10-112 **34,14,11,4**	1-12	5-76	2-22	3-54	-	-	2-29 **13**	2-32 **12**	2-22	collarbone (IR) out	IR out	IR out	IR out	IR out
McKeller	-	2-22 (back-O)	3-41 (knee-P)	3-38 **29**	3-40	3-18	3-34 **5**	1-17	4-38	1-8	2-11	5-49	2-15 (shldr-P)	10-57 **9**	-	2-46
Norwood	- miss: 25	**50** miss: 50	**52,25,44** miss: 48	**33** miss: 36	- miss: 49	**44,25** -	- -	- -	**19,21,42** miss: XP,47	**38,21** -	**42,21** -	**23,29** -	**31** -	**42** miss:XP,49,3 2,36	- -	- miss: 52,37
Others	Rolle 3 catch Gardner 1 run	32 int ret.		Gardner 1 run	Edwards 33 catch; Rolle 2 catch Gardner fumb rec.		Gardner 3 run	Metzelaars 51 catch			6 fumble return			Edwards 91 KO return	Metzelaars 4 catch	Tasker 20 catch

Chicago Bears

One thing you've got to hand Mike Ditka and his Bears: they rarely lose games they're supposed to win. That's one of the big reasons you can count on Chicago to win about 11 games again this year.

Chicago has the second-easiest schedule in the NFC, with half of the opponents coached by rookie head coaches. The Bears face a few tough road games — at New Orleans, Houston, Dallas and Detroit — but play home-and-aways against the three NFC weaklings and also get to meet all those soft AFC Central teams.

The schedule should help give Chicago's offense a boost. The Bears were below average in scoring last year, and their running game slipped to ninth after being ranked in the top three since 1988.

QUARTERBACK. Jim Harbaugh set team records for attempts and completions, but he's not proud of it. Those aren't the kind of records they like to set in Chicago. Ditka would rather have Harbaugh set a record for fewest attempts in a season.

Harbaugh was forced to throw because Chicago's usually powerful ground game dropped off last year. Neal Anderson was hurt for most of the year and the offensive line is aging. Harbaugh put the ball in the air 478 times to rank eighth in the league in pass attempts. The Bears would like to trim that number back this year.

In his second full year as a starter, Harbaugh was able to make the conversion from a weak fantasy backup to a borderline starter. He ranked 18th in fantasy points in 1990. In last year's low-scoring season, his 15 passing touchdowns and two rushing scores were good enough to rank him ninth in total fantasy points.

Because he works with ordinary receivers Wendell Davis and Tom Waddle you wouldn't expect Harbaugh to collect many bonus points for 50-plus yard bombs, but that's not the case. Harbaugh has five long-range TD strikes in the last two years.

Harbaugh also helps his fantasy stock with his running skills. He has scrambled for 559 yards and taken it into the end zone on his own six times during his two years at the controls.

Harbaugh deserves a place on a fantasy roster, but as a full-time starter he still has problems matching up with the Kellys, Moons and Rypiens of the league. The former Michigan star has started 30 games during the last two years but has yet to throw three touchdown passes in a game.

Peter Tom Willis entered training camp as a legitimate contender for the starting job but ended up attempting only 18 passes. The Bears drafted Will Furrer of Virginia Tech in the fourth round. Furrer will probably supplant Paul Justin as the No. 3 quarterback.

RUNNING BACK. Neal Anderson and Brad Muster both were slowed for the majority of the season with hamstring injuries, but the Bears still finished ninth in the league in rushing and scored 18 touchdowns. Think this team knows how to run the football?

Anderson, when healthy, is as good as any fantasy back in the game short of Barry Sanders. He'll average about a touchdown a game and is capable of the 50-yard score by run or reception.

Trouble is, Anderson has tended to wear down in each of the last three seasons. Fantasy coaches are left wondering whether the best strategy with Anderson is to draft him, use him for the first half of the season, and then trade him. Check out the numbers:

- 1989, Anderson scores 10 of his 15 touchdowns in the first six games.
- 1990, Anderson scores 12 of 13 TDs in first seven games before bruising ribs.
- 1991, Anderson is limited to 134 yards in final seven games because of the hamstring injury.

▲ **Brad Muster nursed a hamstring injury for most of last year.**

He's only 28 years old, but you wonder if Anderson is beginning to slow down. Last year, he averaged a career-low 3.6 yards per carry, was 253 yards short of his third straight 1,000-yard season, and wasn't selected to the Pro Bowl for the first time since 1987. He also didn't have a single 100-yard game. Da Bears offensive line problems don't help either.

When Anderson goes down, Muster becomes hot property. He scored six touchdowns in four games late in the season and would have scored more if he wasn't also battling a hamstring injury.

Muster possesses many of the same qualities that make Anderson a great fantasy back, including the ability to catch the ball out of the backfield. Even though each of these backs missed about half the season, they combined for 82 catches and four receiving touchdowns last year.

Considering Anderson and Muster's injury problems, second-year back Darren Lewis ranks among the top darkhorse candidates in the league.

An interesting note on Lewis is that when he failed a drug test prior to the draft, the Bears reportedly tried to scratch him from their draft list, but through a mixup crossed out University of Washington back Greg Lewis' name instead. It may be a mistake that Bears fans laugh about for years.

Darren Lewis is the all-time leading rusher in Southwest Conference history, with more career yards than Earl Campbell. The former Aggie ran like a Campbell in the playoff loss to Dallas, rumbling for 65 yards on nine carries.

"You will see him running with the ball for some time if he keeps himself in the right kind of shape," Ditka says.

Don't read too much into backup tailback Mark Green being left

unprotected — he cut a deal with the team. Fullback James Rouse is more blocker and special teamer than ballcarrier.

RECEIVER. Wendell Davis finished only 24th in receiving yardage in the league last year but his 945 yards were the most by a Chicago receiver in 21 years. It says a lot about the effect running backs Walter Payton and Neal Anderson have had on the Bear offense since the mid-seventies. A wide receiver can be a record setter for Chicago and still only qualify as a quality backup or borderline starter in most fantasy leagues.

Such is the case with Davis. He emerged in his fourth season to become the first wide receiver to lead the Bears in receiving since 1988 and the first Bear to catch six touchdown passes since Dennis McKinnon did it that year.

Davis doesn't have blazing speed, but he's capable of the circus catch and will always go up in traffic to try to make the grab. Now that Harbaugh has emerged as a decent NFL quarterback, the former Louisiana State standout is certainly capable of finishing among the top 20 scoring receivers again.

Fan favorite Tom Waddle has been cut three times by the Bears but carved out a niche for himself as an underneath possession-type receiver. He caught at least two passes in every game, although only three went for touchdowns. His skills are too limited to earn him a spot on a team in most fantasy leagues.

Ron Morris will try to unseat Waddle for a starting job after playing in only three games because of a knee injury. Anthony Morgan provides a deep threat for three-receiver sets but isn't polished enough for full-time duty.

Tight end James Thornton's foot and ankle problems limited him to just 16 passes and one touchdown. Considering Chicago's mildly productive offense, his top-end potential is about three touchdowns. With Cap Boso retired (knee injury), Keith Jennings becomes the second tight end.

KICKER. Kevin Butler had the worst season of his seven-year career, hitting only 19 of 29 field goals and missing two extra points. His two missed field goals against Miami, including a 24-yarder, cost the Bears the NFC Central championship.

Butler can cite a lengthy holdout and a pulled hip muscle as excuses, but the fact is he's been in a slump for the past two years. He missed 11 of 37 field goals in 1990, although he did hit four blasts from beyond 50 yards that year. If he doesn't put together a good season this year, the Bears may turn to Chris Gardocki, who handled the kickoff duties late in the season.

For whatever reason, even when Butler's been on, the Bears haven't produced a ton of kicking points, with Butler scoring more than 90 points only once in the last five years.

DEFENSE. The Bears could have finished first in the NFL in fewest touchdowns allowed if they hadn't been smoked 52-14 by San Francisco in that final Monday night game. Only one other team scored three TDs against Chicago — Buffalo.

Toss out those two losses and the Bears allowed only 17 touchdowns in 14 games. In other words, be cautious when starting fantasy players against Chicago.

The Bears haven't had a high-scoring defense lately. Their NFL-leading takeaway total of 45 in 1990 slipped to a below-average 30, and they scored only once last year.

1991 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

Passing	Att	Comp	Yards	Pct	TD	Int	'90 TD	'89 TD
Harbaugh	478	275	3121	57.5	15	16	10	5
Bears	497	286	3292	57.5	16	17	14	21
Opp.	513	286	3184	55.8	19	17	19	21

Rushing	Att	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD	'90 TD	'89 TD
Anderson	210	747	3.6	t42	6	13	15
Muster	90	412	4.6	24	6	6	8
Harbaugh	70	338	4.8	20	2	10	5
Bears	502	1949	3.9	t42	18	22	22
Opp.	389	1580	4.1	t64	9	10	21

Receiving	No	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD	'90 TD	'89 TD
Davis	61	945	15.5	t75	6	3	3
Waddle	55	599	10.9	t37	3	0	0
Anderson	47	368	7.8	t26	3	3	4
Muster	35	287	8.2	21	1	0	3
Thornton	17	278	16.4	33	1	1	3
Bears	286	3292	11.5	t84	16	14	21
Opp.	286	3184	11.1	t77	19	19	21

Kicking	XP-A	FG-A	Lg	Pts	'90 Pts	'89 Pts
Butler	32/34	19/29	50	89	114	88
Opp.	29/29	22/30	60	95	94	119

	Minn. 10-6	at T.B. 21-20	Gnts. 20-17	Jets 19-13	at Buff. 20-35	Wash. 7-20	at G.B. 10-0	at N.O. 20-17	Det. 20-10	at Minn. 34-17	at Ind. 31-17	Mia. 13-16	at Det. 6-16	G.B. 27-13	T.B. 27-0	at S.F. 14-52
Harbaugh	17-24-0-186 37	13-20-1-153 7,43	15-25-1-221 75	28-42-0-303 1 run, 6	17-35-1-203	17-41-3-206	18-29-1-142 8	5-22-2-61 12	17-31-0-205 22,8	18-27-1-180 7	18-32-1-287 6 run,13,84	25-40-0-210	27-48-4-244	16-25-1-209 20,35	7-14-0-99	17-24-0-212 26
Anderson	23-58	17-35 7 catch,12	8-57 42	19-76 6 catch	19-54 2	18-73 1	16-81	12-53	16-68	20-91 6,24	hamstring Questnble	21-43	13-45	hamstring Out	hamstring Out	8-13 26 catch
Muster	hamstring Questnble	hamstring Questnble	3-8	hamstring Probable	hamstring Questnble	hamstring Questnble	9-30	10-57 6	10-22	11-56	15-101 13 catch,9	8-54 3	hamstring Questnble	9-44 8,6	12-34 1	3-6
W.Davis	3-32	3-70 43	2-88 75	9-96	5-51	3-29	-	1-27	6-98 22,8	3-31	3-50	7-75	6-81	2-55 20,35	1-12	6-136
Waddle	2-48 37	2-27	3-25	8-102	3-31	2-15	3-41	2-17 12	3-35	5-35	2-21	3-25	8-85	2-12	3-45	5-49 11
Morgan	2-19	1-17	-	knee Questnble	3-36	-	-	-	-	2-18 7	1-84 84	-	1-1	2-28	1-8	-
Thornton	2-24	-	2-52	3-45	1-25	1-13	3-22 8	-	1-6	1-11	2-47	foot Probable	foot Probable	ankle Questnble	ankle Questnble	achilles Questnble
Butler	22 miss: 27	- -	46,20 -	33,44 miss: 45	28,42 -	- -	22 miss: 47	34,48 miss: 51	21,25 miss: 43	59,41 ms: 35(leg-P)	21 (leg-Q)	32,19 miss: 24,50	27,22 miss: 37	- miss: XP	- miss: XP,41	- -
Others					Green 1 run					34 int. return					Green 1.2 runs; Bailey 1 run	Willis 11 throw

Cincinnati Bengals

David Shula picked the right year to be named coach of the Bengals, because he's taking over in an even-numbered year. Every year for the last decade the Bengals have had great seasons in even-numbered years and lousy seasons in odd-numbered years.

Since 1987, the odd-even hex has intensified. Cincinnati has alternated between first- and last-place finishes in the AFC Central — capped by their odd-numbered fall to 3-13 last year. The Bengal offense, which scored more touchdowns than any other team from 1988 to 1990, abruptly dropped to 23rd last year.

What causes the Bengals to run hot and cold? Maybe it's the NFL's policy of basing schedule difficulty on how a team places. Cincinnati played the second-hardest schedule in league last year, so they get the sixth-easiest this time around.

Shula becomes the youngest coach in the modern era of the game. Age alone doesn't mean he can't be successful, however. Five of the next six youngest head coaches — John Madden, Mike Shanahan, Dan Reeves, Chuck Noll, Tom Landry and Don Shula — turned out all right.

"Some people are going to think that David is a little young to be an NFL head coach, but you should bear in mind that he's been an NFL assistant for 10 years," General Manager Mike Brown said.

And it's an even year.

QUARTERBACK. Boomer Esiason threw 56 touchdowns in 1988-89 and the Bengals went 20-12 and played in a Super Bowl. In the last two years, he's thrown only 37 touchdowns and the Bengals have gone 12-20.

It's no coincidence that Esiason's decline has gone hand-in-hand with the deterioration of Cincinnati's offensive line. Max Montoya, Bruce Reimers and Brian Blados are gone, and Anthony Munoz — maybe the best tackle in the history of the game — is slowing down as he enters his 13th season.

With the line crumbling, Esiason no longer plays with the benefit of the league's best running game and doesn't get as much time to throw. Last year, he suffered a separated shoulder that limited the velocity he could put on his passes for half the season.

As a fantasy quarterback, Esiason was a below-average performer for the first time since his rookie season in 1984. He was outperformed by quarterbacks who weren't even starters on opening day — Mike Tomczak, Neil O'Donnell, Erik Kramer, Steve Bono and Rich Gannon.

After watching Esiason throw a league-high 22 interceptions in 1990 and just 13 TDs against 16 interceptions last year, many Riverfront fans are ready to lower the Boom on the Boomer. He's been shaky enough that the Bengals ignored their porous defense and took David Klingler in the first round of the draft.

"I've taken a reputation I've tried to build on for seven years and totally ripped it to shreds," Esiason says.

Esiason is no longer starting material for fantasy teams, but he ranks as a top reserve because he's capable of rebounding and being one of the top five quarterbacks. Remember that while playing with the shoulder problem, Esiason threw eight TD passes and led Cincinnati to its three wins in the second half of the season. The Redskins, Eagles, Giants and Cowboys aren't on the schedule this year, either. Esiason may also call his own plays in the no-huddle this year.

Klingler, who threw 54 touchdowns as a junior at the University of Houston, will need a couple years of work before he's ready to play. He has poor drop-back techniques and has never operated a pro-style offense, which brings back memories of Andre Ware.

RUNNING BACK. James Brooks and Ickey Woods are now Bengal history, but Cincinnati may still have a 10-touchdown-type back for fantasy teams — Harold Green.

▲ **Boomer Esiason threw more interceptions than TD passes.**

The third-year tailback took over as the starter in week five and responded with three 100-yard games and a Bo Jackson-like 75-yard TD at Dallas. He rushed for 731 yards even though he hardly played in the Bengals' first four games and was sidelined for three games late in the season with a knee injury.

One worry for fantasy coaches is that Green will be replaced in goal-line situations by a bigger back such as Plan B signee Derrick Fenner. Green scored only two touchdowns last year, although at 222 pounds he's more than big enough to push through the pile.

The biggest flaw we see with Green is his tendency to be slowed by minor injuries. He missed significant time during each of the past four seasons, including his final two seasons at the University of South Carolina.

Fenner rushed for 859 yards and led the AFC with 15 touchdowns in 1990, but the Seahawks didn't even bother protecting him after he averaged 2.9 yards per carry last year. "Even in his good year, he (never) was good on a consistent basis," Seattle offensive coordinator John Becker said.

Many Bengal fans felt the team pulled the plug too early on Brooks, who was left unprotected and signed with Cleveland. Brooks was 33 years old, but he seemed younger because of his rigorous offseason workouts. He finished first or second in the league in yards per carry in 1988, 1989 and 1990.

Woods was waived four years after averaging 5.3 yards per carry and

scoring 15 touchdowns as a rookie — he just never recovered from a major knee injury at the start of the 1989 season.

Mike Dingle, who played with Green in college, figures to challenge starter Craig Taylor at fullback.

RECEIVER. Was it a lack of concentration, the backwards spiral on lefty Boomer Esiason's passes, or some kind of strange air blowing into Riverfront Stadium off the Ohio River? Whatever it was, the Bengals may have set a record last season for dropped passes.

"There were 60 legitimate dropped passes, and you can't have that," Esiason said after the season's final game. No wonder the Bengals went out and made Carl Pickens the second wide receiver taken after Desmond Howard.

Last year, Eddie Brown had one of the biggest drops of all for fantasy coaches when he dropped an end zone pass at Miami in week 15 — a playoff week in most leagues. He and running mate Tim McGee will have to make a better effort to hang on to passes if the Bengals are to make a run in the AFC Central.

Brown caught 59 balls (two TDs) last year but hasn't been making any of his trademark big plays recently. He had five 60-yard catches in 1988, when he led the NFL with a 24.0 receiving average. He hasn't had a 60-yard reception since, although he scored nine touchdowns in 1990.

McGee, who has better straight-ahead speed than Brown, averaged under 17 yards a catch for the first time in his six-year career. His 15.7 average still ranked eighth among the 54 wide receivers with 40-plus catches though. He's got decent potential.

Pickens should be able to immediately challenge McGee for a starting spot in a battle of former Tennessee players. Pickens isn't quite as fast as McGee, but he has better hands and is more ellusive after the catch.

Rodney Holman, although coming off his worst statistical season since the strike-shortened season of 1987, is still one of the game's top tight ends. Eric Kattus is a nice pickup if he gets hurt.

KICKER. Since being waived and recalled in 1989, 36-year-old Jim Breech hasn't given the Bengals the chance to get rid of him, hitting 81 percent of his field goals.

Last year he ranked eighth in accuracy among placekickers and silenced doubts — as least temporarily — about his range by hitting 5-of-6 from the 40-to-49 yard range. But Breech hasn't scored 100 points in a season since 1986, and the Bengals ranked 17th in kicking points last year, so don't figure on a big year for the 11th-highest scorer in league history.

DEFENSE. Indianapolis didn't have an exclusive on futility last year — the Bengals allowed 53 touchdowns, six more than the Colts or any other NFL team.

The Bengals have collected the fewest sacks in the NFL over the last two years, and the result was a pass defense that allowed opposing quarterbacks to complete 60 percent of their passes and throw 26 TD strikes.

The new coaching staff plans to turn loose outside linebackers James Francis and Alfred Williams (only three sacks each), but there are no quick fixes for this understaffed unit.

1991 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

Passing	Att	Comp	Yards	Pct	TD	Int	'90 TD	'89 TD
Esiason	413	233	2883	56.4	13	16	24	28
Bengals	511	290	3413	56.8	14	22	25	32
Opp.	505	303	4119	60.0	26	17	24	22

Rushing	Att	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD	'90 TD	'89 TD
Green	158	731	4.6	t75	2	1	-
Brooks	152	571	3.8	25	2	5	7
Taylor	33	153	4.6	t34	2	2	3
Woods	36	97	2.7	12	4	6	2
Bengals	449	1811	4.0	t75	11	16	17
Opp.	454	1662	3.7	43	20	15	9

Receiving	No	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD	'90 TD	'89 TD
Brown	59	827	14.0	53	2	9	6
McGee	51	802	15.7	t52	4	1	8
Brooks	40	348	8.7	40	2	4	2
Holman	31	445	14.4	39	2	5	9
Barber	23	255	11.1	t42	1	1	0
Bengals	290	3413	11.8	53	14	25	32
Opp.	303	4119	13.6	t74	26	24	22

Kicking	XP-A	FG-A	Lg	Pts	'90 Pts	'89 Pts
Breech	27/27	23/29	50	96	92	73
Opp.	49/52	22/31	50	115	106	91

	at Den. 14-45	Hou. 7-30	at Clev. 13-14	Wash. 27-34	Sea. 7-13	at Dall. 23-35	at Buff. 16-35	at Hou. 3-35	Clev. 23-21	Pitt. 27-33	at Phil. 10-17	Rdrs. 14-38	Gnts. 27-24	at Mia. 13-37	at Pitt. 10-17	N.E. 29-7
Esiason	11-20-3-206 **42,52**	17-28-1-216 **18**	15-26-0-140 **26**	18-37-1-212	18-38-2-256	17-31-2-191	13-21-1-149 **19**	separated left shoulder	18-30-1-185 **2,34**	32-43-1-361 **18**	10-18-3-110 **16**	L.shoulder Questnble	17-30-0-204 **41**	13-25-0-195	14-26-2-125	20-40-0-333 **21,12,36**
Brooks	11-27	20-101	18-111	7-15 **5**	11-41	13-35 **3**	7-45	8-14	8-23	15-35	11-35 **16 catch**	4-18	ankle Probable	7-42	6-11	6-18 **36 catch**
Green	6-12	3-18	5-(-2)	9-40	15-76	12-124 **75**	26-141	4-4	24-135	2-2	knee doubtful	knee Questnble	11-19 **1**	17-79	18-62	6-21
Woods	knee (IR) out	knee (IR) out	knee (IR) out	knee (IR) out	knee (IR) out	knee (IR) out	3-(-1)	1-3	-	7-33 **4,1**	8-16	11-44 **1**	3-1	1-1 **1**	-	2-0
Brown	1-11	2-46	shoulder Questnble	2-14	7-117	7-58	5-69 **19**	3-40	3-73 **34**	10-98	hernia Questnble	-	4-95	5-64	5-50	5-92
McGee	2-63 **52**	1-23	3-34 **26**	4-97	4-55	4-59	6-67	6-43	1-6	3-101	4-46	2-15	4-68 **41**	3-79	-	4-46 **12**
Holman	3-53	2-34	1-6	2-30	2-14	2-52	2-7	2-36	1-11	7-87 **18**	leg Probable	1-6	1-10	-	2-5	3-94 **21**
Breech	- -	- miss: 33	**21,36** -	**46,25** -	- -	**45,24,26** -	**32,42** -	**20** miss: 50	**23,38,38** -	**29,47** -	**38** -	- -	**35,35** -	**27,50** miss: 39	**39** miss: 50,48,26	**49,25** -
Others	Barber 42 catch	James 18 catch		Taylor 1,34 runs	Ball 1 run		Johnson 53 FG	Wilhelm QB'd	Dingle 2 catch			Rembert 24 from Hollas	78 punt return		27 int return	safety

Cleveland Browns

Coach Bill Belichick was the defensive coordinator for the Giants before he came to Cleveland, but he obviously poked his head into a few offensive meetings during his 12 years in New York. The Brown offense of 1991 looked strikingly similar to what we've seen from the Giants in recent years. Lots of running the ball and high-percentage passes. The Giants and Browns led the league in percentage of passes thrown to running backs last year, and both teams led their conference in fewest turnovers.

Belichick and the Browns have a way to go before they'll be ranked up with Parcells and the Giants, but they're making progress. Cleveland got whipped by 34 or more points four times in 1990. Last year, six of their 10 losses were by a combined 17 points.

The Browns have the league's fourth-easiest schedule this year, and they signed a league-high 11 Plan B free agents. They're looking ready to challenge for a playoff spot again.

QUARTERBACK. Among quarterbacks with at least seven starts, Bernie Kosar was the worst quarterback in fantasy football in 1990. He rebounded in his first year under Belichick to throw 18 touchdown passes and rank eighth in fantasy points.

Kosar completed over 62 percent of his passes and was picked off only nine times, breaking Bart Starr's record for consecutive passes without an interception. The Cleveland quarterback's passer rating of 87.8 was his best since 1987, when he threw 22 touchdown passes.

Most surprising, Kosar was able to get through the season in one piece. The Browns are committed to improving their offensive line, but it's still among the poorest in the league. Kosar was sacked a career-high 41 times.

Look for the Browns to protect Kosar better this year by running the ball more effectively. Cleveland runners averaged only 3.5 per carry, so Kosar had to put the ball in the air more than any quarterback other than Warren Moon and Dan Marino. First-round fullback Tommy Vardell will help the running game and can effectively pick up rushers in the backfield.

Until Kosar gets time in the pocket, he won't be able to hook up on any long touchdowns, which are worth bonus points in most leagues. An impressive four of Kosar's TD passes came from outside 60 yards last year, but two of those came in the first two games and the others were dumpoff passes that 230-pound fullback Leroy Hoard amazingly took all the way.

The gangly Kosar, of course, won't help his fantasy cause with a rushing touchdown, either, although he did average a career-high 4.6 yards rushing per game last year. An additonal negative on Kosar is the condition of the receiving corps — Reggie Langhorne and Brian Brennan are gone and Webster Slaughter is unsigned and unhappy.

In Kosar fantasy coaches get a quarterback who'll finish 10th to 15th in fantasy points.

If Kosar gets hurt, the Browns will be in serious trouble. The only available backups are Todd Philcox and Jeff Francis, a couple of fourth-year vets who have a combined career 14 pass attempts.

RUNNING BACK. The Browns have a league-high five backs seriously contending for starting positions — Leroy Hoard, Kevin Mack, Eric Metcalf, James Brooks and Tommy Vardell — but we still like the chances of a couple of these backs becoming solid fantasy players.

Last year, Cleveland running backs scored 23 of their team's 31 touchdowns and the Browns were the first team in three years to have two different runners (Hoard and Mack) score 10 or more touchdowns. The Brown air game heavily involves the backs — to the tune of 132 passes, 1,201 yards and 11 touchdowns, all league-highs. Most NFL teams have just two or three TD passes go to running backs.

▲ **Bernie Kosar may be without any proven wide receivers.**

Hoard was the big surprise. The second-year fullback tied an NFL record by catching nine TD passes. The last running back to catch nine scoring passes in a season was Chuck Foreman in 1975. You wouldn't think a 230-pounder would be a breakaway threat, but Hoard managed to go 65 and 71 yards with a couple of dumpoffs.

Hoard has carried the ball only 94 times in his first two seasons, but he's been able to bust loose for non-scoring runs of 42 and 52 yards. His average on his other attempts is only 2.3 yards, but reportedly Hoard will carry the ball more this year.

The other Cleveland back we're recommending is Vardell, the ninth pick of the draft. This 6-foot-1 232-pound fullback was outstanding as a goal-line specialist for Stanford the last two years and really improved his overall game in his senior season. He ran for over 100 yards in eight of the Cardinal's 12 games and scored 22 touchdowns. Then he amazed scouts by running a 4.48 40-yard dash.

Unless he's a prolonged holdout, it seems a lock that Vardell will be paired in the short-yardage offense with Mack or Hoard from day one. The only question is whether the Browns will have him carry the ball the majority of the time.

Even though Mack scored 10 times last year, he had an off year. His average dipped to 3.7 yards per carry, and he had four different minor injuries throughout the year. With the addition of Vardell and Brooks, it's hard to see his playing time doing anything but decreasing.

Metcalf, a 185-pounder who's better on turf, will probably either be

traded or moved to wide receiver. He lacks the size to run inside or block, and Hoard did a more than adequate job replacing him as the receiving back after Metcalf separated his shoulder in the eighth game.

With so many quality running backs available, the 33-year-old James Brooks will likely have a situational role. He's a nice waiver pickup for the Cincinnati games, however. The Browns will probably expand Brooks' role in those two games to give the former Bengal the chance to pay back his old club for leaving him unprotected. Joe Morris is two years younger than Brooks but probably won't make the team.

RECEIVER. The only wideout on the roster with more than 17 career receptions is Webster Slaughter — and he doesn't have a contract and is demanding to be traded. Slaughter caught a team-high 64 passes for 906 yards last year, but he's upset that the Browns don't throw the bomb often enough.

He and Reggie Langhorne both bickered with Belichick last year, and Langhorne was suspended and then cut loose in Plan B. Slaughter wishes the Browns would let him go as well.

"It has nothing to do with money, it isn't even catches per game," Slaughter says. "We have to throw deep more."

If Slaughter fails to make it to camp, the Browns are prepared to replace him with another second-round receiver out of San Diego State — rookie Patrick Rowe. Rowe's the guy who caught all those bombs from Dan McGwire in 1990; he was hurt much of last year.

One starting spot will probably be filled by Michael Jackson, who as a rookie was able to slip by the NFL's uniform police and wear No. 1 on his jersey. Regulations stipulate that all wide receivers must wear a number in the 80's; they wouldn't let Andre Rison wear No. 1 in 1989. Jackson caught only one more touchdown pass than his uniform number, however.

The only other receivers available are sixth-rounder Rico Smith, journeyman-types Lynn James and Tyrone Shavers, and Lawyer Tillman, who's spent two straight years on injured reserve.

Since Belichick became coach, no tight end has scored. Scott Galbreath caught 27 of the 28 passes last year. The Browns did sign 33-year-old Pete Holohan (343 career catches) but his blocking abilities don't seem to mesh with a team that has offensive line problems.

KICKER. Belichick has to feel good about the acquistion of Matt Stover, who spent 1990 stashed on injured reserve after being drafted by the Giants. Stover had a decent rookie season, hitting 16 of 22 field goals. He won a game with a 45-yarder, but lost two others by blowing last-second kicks — including a 19-yarder against Houston.

Stover wasn't of much value to fantasy coaches in his inaugural season. The Browns finished 26th in the NFL in field goal attempts, and Stover scored just 81 points.

DEFENSE. With the arrival of Belichick, the Browns' woeful defense got better in a hurry. Cleveland trimmed 26 touchdowns off its league-worst total of 59 — the biggest improvement in the league. At the same time, Cleveland maintained its six-year tradition of ranking among the league leaders in defensive and special teams touchdowns. The Browns returned three interceptions and a fumble for touchdowns and also scored on a fake field goal.

1991 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

Passing	Att	Comp	Yards	Pct	TD	Int	'90 TD	'89 TD
Kosar	494	307	3487	62.1	18	9	10	18
Browns	503	312	3547	62.0	19	10	13	20
Opp.	522	312	3445	59.8	20	15	32	20

Rushing	Att	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD	'90 TD	'89 TD
Mack	197	726	3.7	t51	8	5	1
Morris	93	289	3.1	15	2	-	-
Hoard	37	154	4.2	52	2	3	-
Browns	389	1360	3.5	52	12	10	14
Opp.	447	1875	4.2	t65	12	21	8

Receiving	No	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD	'90 TD	'89 TD
Slaughter	64	906	14.2	t62	3	4	6
Hoard	48	567	11.8	t71	9	0	-
Mack	40	255	6.4	22	2	2	0
Langhorne	39	505	12.9	t40	2	2	2
Brennan	31	325	10.5	30	1	2	0
Metcalf	29	294	10.1	45	0	1	4
Browns	312	3547	11.4	t71	19	13	20
Opp.	312	3445	11.0	t70	20	32	20

Kicking	XP-A	FG-A	Lg	Pts	'90 Pts	'89 Pts
Stover	33/34	16/22	55	81	-	-
Browns	33/34	16/22	55	81	66	88
Opp.	32/33	22/30	54	98	104	74

	Dall. 14-26	at N.E. 20-0	Cin. 14-13	at Gnts. 10-13	Jets 14-17	at Wash. 17-42	at S.D. 30-24	Pitt. 17-14	at Cin. 21-23	Phil. 30-32	at Hou. 24-28	K.C. 20-15	at Ind. 31-0	Den. 7-17	Hou. 14-17	at Pitt. 10-17
Kosar	21-32-0-249 **62**	15-22-0-187 **7,65**	20-41-0-197	13-22-0-107 **7**	16-24-0-133 **4**	21-29-0-266	26-42-0-303 **6,15**	21-29-0-179 **2**	19-31-0-285	14-33-1-246 **65,18,24**	21-34-1-279 **14,40**	13-20-2-171 **71**	18-23-0-189 **3**	12-24-1-110	28-40-1-258 **8,8**	28-49-3-335 **27**
Hoard	-	4-19 **7 catch**	3-12	-	- **4 catch**	-	4-7 **6,15 catches**	1-2 **2 catch**	1-3	1-2 **65 catch**	2-1 **14 catch**	6-61 **71 catch,1**	2-2 **2**	3-11	5-17 **8 catch**	5-17
Mack	7-12 **1**	ankle	10-37	20-71 **7 catch**	13-51 **1**	14-70	leg Questnble	19-54 **1**	26-78 **4,4,2**	10-23	16-32	16-46	9-69 **3 catch,51**	14-87 **3**	15-73	8-23
Metcalf	3-13	8-18	6-7	2-(-7)	4-27	1-(-3)	5-23	1-12	shoulder Questionable	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Slaughter	4-88 **62**	3-29	8-107	3-41	3-24	2-39 **11**	5-75	4-38	5-107	5-74 **18**	4-78	2-17	2-19	2-19	1-13	11-138
Langhorne	1-21	-	4-29	-	1-13	3-47	6-75	2-13	4-49	4-73 **24**	1-40 **40**	5-50	1-12	4-55	3-28	chest Questnble
Galbraith	3-30	2-23	1-10	1-21	-	-	-	1-4	1-42	1-13	3-39	3-20	4-52	1-4	4-30	2-40
Stover	- miss: 45	**30,32** -	**30,42,38,45** -	**30** -	- -	**28** -	**30** -	**34** -	- miss: 34,47	**50** -	**55** -	**34,21** -	**41** miss: 25	- -	- miss: 19	**19** miss: 44
Others		Jackson 65 catch	safety			11 fake FG throw 37 fumb return	Morris 1 run 30 int ret			42 int return	Morris 5 run		20 int. return		Brennan 8 catch	Jackson 27 catch

Dallas Cowboys

Jimmy Johnson coached the Cowboys last year as if he knew — and cared — that thousands of fantasy coaches around the country were depending on his players. Dallas was an ideal NFL team because no short-yardage specialists or extra receivers had a major role in the offense, so fantasy coaches didn't need to worry about the value of the Cowboy starters being diminished.

No diversification problems here. When the Cowboys scored last year, it was basically either Emmitt Smith or Michael Irvin:

- No back other than Smith scored two rushing touchdowns.
- No wide receiver other than Irvin caught two touchdown passes.

Those are the kind of trends that fantasy coaches love. Especially when the Cowboys were scoring 98 more points in 1991 than they did the previous year.

The only real worry is the team's schedule, which is the hardest in the league this year. Ten of the 16 games are against teams that ranked in the top 10 in fewest touchdowns allowed last year.

QUARTERBACK. Here's a scary stat on Troy Aikman:

- Vinny Testaverde in his first 38 games — 43 touchdown passes. Troy Aikman in his first 38 games — 31 touchdown passes.

There are absolutely no statistical indicators that suggest Aikman will suddenly emerge as a force among fantasy quarterbacks. However, because he's a young quarterback playing for a team on the rise, there's still this feeling going around that Aikman is suddenly going to break out and post Dan Marino-like touchdown numbers. It's been a long wait, hasn't it?

Aikman threw 11 touchdown passes in both 1990 and 1991. Last year, he edged into the top 20 in fantasy points among quarterbacks for the first time, but still ranked behind such "noted" NFL signal callers as Rich Gannon, Neil O'Donnell and Hugh Millen.

The Cowboys, in fact, had a lot more offense last year after Aikman got hurt. Backup Steve Beuerlein engineered wins at Washington, Philadelphia and Chicago and the team won six straight. Beuerlein threw at least one touchdown pass in all six of those games. Aikman has thrown only one touchdown pass in the team's last four games against Phoenix. What's the problem?

Because Aikman's a young quarterback with a prototype NFL body (6-foot-4, 220 pounds), you'd figure he'd help his fantasy stats with some rushing touchdowns. It hasn't happened. Aikman ran for a total of 5 yards last year. The only NFL starter to run for fewer yards was 37-year-old Steve DeBerg.

The Cowboys keep their offense simple for Aikman. Lots of short dumpoffs to the running backs and tight ends. His completion percentage (65.3 percent) was the second-best in the league last year, but his longest touchdown pass was 34 yards — and that was that Hail Mary touchdown to Alvin Harper at the end of the first half of the game at Washington. He'll have to start throwing downfield this year for his touchdown total to grow.

If you look at Aikman's college stats at UCLA you'll see the same kind of conservative quarterbacking — even though he had great weapons at his disposal such as Flipper Anderson.

What might help Aikman reach that 20-TD plateau is the Cowboys' ever-growing arsenal of weapons. Harper is ready to emerge alongside Pro Bowler Michael Irvin and the Cowboys drafted talented wideout Jimmy Smith of Jackson State in the second round. The tough schedule doesn't help, though.

RUNNING BACK. Emmitt Smith set an NFL record last year by accounting for over 91 percent of his team's rushing yards. Even when Eric Dickerson and O.J. Simpson were running for over 2,000 yards they didn't account for more than 75 percent of their team's running game.

Smith totaled an NFL-high 1,563 yards and scored 13 touchdowns.

▲ **Troy Aikman could be in for a breakthrough year.**

Backup Ricky Blake ran for 80 yards, and starting fullback Daryl Johnston had 54.

"I don't think there is a question that our success is based on Emmitt Smith running the ball," Troy Aikman said after Smith ran for 182 yards and two touchdowns, including a 60-yarder, to lead the team to a 17-9 win at Phoenix.

Smith was the only player in the NFL to lead his team in rushing in every game last year. Including playoff games, Smith has been the high rusher 26 straight games for Dallas. Even though defenses knew what was coming last year, they couldn't stop the second-year back out of Florida. The team doing the best job of stopping Smith — Philadelphia — held him to 44 yards on 13 carries.

Burnout, of course, is a concern when you have a 203-pound running back breaking Herschel Walker's team record for carries (365) and handling the ball more times than any player in the league.

"I don't think that through a 16-game season Emmitt should carry the ball as many times as he did last year," offensive coordinator Norv Turner admits. "But I don't know which carries we'd cut out."

The Cowboys made a move to trim Smith's 49 receptions by trading for Keith Woodside of Green Bay. Smith was a terrible receiver anyway. His average of 5.3 yards per catch was the worst in the league among backs with 20 receptions.

Woodside, however, failed a physical because of a back problem. The Cowboys in May were hoping they could trade the former Texas A&M

star. Good luck finding any takers. It's uncertain if he'll be able to contribute.

They may also try to spell Smith more often with Blake or second-year back Curvin Richards. Not enough to damage his fantasy stock, however. Smith is arguably the best player available in the draft.

RECEIVER. Michael Irvin had a Jerry Rice-like year last season, catching 93 passes for 1,523 yards. Dallas was also the only team in the league that didn't have two receivers catch more than 20 passes, so you could say Irvin's in a powerful position as he negotiates his new contract this summer.

Now completely recovered from a serious knee injury that limited his productivity in 1989 and 1990, Irvin started once again making the kind of big plays he made routinely at the University of Miami. He caught eight TD passes and was named the MVP of the Pro Bowl.

From a fantasy standpoint, the only negative we see on Irvin is that he wasn't a dominant scorer until Steve Beuerlien replaced Troy Aikman in week 11. Irvin had four of his NFL-high seven 100-yard games in those five weeks, and also caught half his touchdown passes from the backup — including both of his long-range strikes.

As a rookie, Alvin Harper had a handful of acrobatic catches while starting the final 10 games. He'll be counted on to contribute more heavily this year, and could really come on if Irvin can't agree to a contract.

Lightning-fast Alexander Wright can't run routes or catch, so the Cowboys spent a second-round pick on Jimmy Smith of Jackson State, a former teammate of Kansas City's Tim Barnett. If Smith adjusts quickly to the pros, then Kelvin Martin will be reduced to strictly a punt returner.

Jay Novacek has emerged as a favorite outlet of Aikman's. The tight end scored all four of his TDs while Aikman was at the controls and had only two receptions fewer than Irvin until a knee injury cut into his playing time. Alfredo Roberts is essentially an extra tackle.

KICKER. There may be a bounty on Ken Willis if the Buccaneers play Dallas next year. The unprotected kicker broke a handshake deal with the Cowboys and signed with Tampa Bay for a two-year raise worth over half a million bucks. But he won't get a Christmas card from Jimmy Johnson this year. "I am disappointed that an individual compromised trust for money," Johnson told the Dallas media. "When someone gives me their word, that's stronger to me than a contract."

Willis finished third in the league in scoring last year, but his loss won't cripple the Cowboys. The second-year kicker hit just 69 percent of his 39 attempts last year, finishing 23rd in the league in accuracy.

His likely replacement is Brad Daluiso, who handled kickoff duties for the Bills last year. Daluiso kicked for Green Bay in the preseason and Atlanta for the first two games and hit 7-of-9 attempts and all 14 extra points. At Buffalo, 37 percent of his kickoffs were boomed into the end zone for touchbacks.

DEFENSE. Dallas' secondary, with two Plan B guys and a 12th rounder, was exposed as a fraud by Detroit in the playoffs and then the team lost two middle linebackers in Plan B. Not to worry, the Cowboys used the last of all those picks obtained in the Herschel Walker swindle to bring in a busload of new talent.

The special teams were indeed special last year. The Cowboys scored on a blocked punt versus Houston and were the only team to score on both punt and kickoff returns. Alexander Wright, while a king-sized flop at wide receiver, is perhaps the most-feared kickoff man in the NFL. He has kickoff return touchdowns in each of the past two years.

1991 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

Passing	Att	Comp	Yards	Pct	TD	Int	'90 TD	'89 TD
Aikman	363	237	2754	65.3	11	10	11	9
Beuerlein	137	68	909	49.6	5	2	0	13
Cowboys	500	305	61.0	3663	16	12	12	14
Opp.	540	320	59.3	3646	17	12	12	21

Rushing	Att	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD	'90 TD	'89 TD
Smith	365	1563	4.3	t75	12	11	-
Blake	15	80	5.3	t30	1	-	-
Cowboys	433	1711	4.0	t75	15	13	7
Opp.	400	1571	3.9	t75	11	18	17

Receiving	No	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD	'90 TD	'89 TD
Irvin	93	1523	16.4	t66	8	5	2
Novacek	59	664	11.3	49	4	4	1
Smith	49	258	5.3	14	1	0	-
Johnston	28	244	8.7	22	1	1	-
Harper	20	326	16.3	39	1	-	-
Cowboys	305	3663	12.0	t66	16	12	14
Opp.	320	3646	11.4	t67	17	12	21

Kicking	XP-A	FG-A	Lg	Pts	'90 Pts	'89 Pts
Willis	37/37	27/39	54	118	80	-
Opp.	31/32	29/39	53	118	90	127

	at Clev. 26-14	Wash. 31-33	Phil. 0-24	at Phoe. 17-9	Gnts. 21-16	at G.B. 20-17	Cin. 35-23	at Det. 10-34	Phoe. 27-7	at Hou. 23-26	at Gnts. 9-22	at Wash. 24-21	Pitt. 20-10	N.O. 23-14	at Phil. 25-13	Atl. 31-27
Aikman	24-37-0-274 3,4	27-42-0-239 3,5,6	11-25-3-112	12-20-0-150	20-27-0-277 23	31-41-0-287 13	14-22-2-276 2 run, 26	28-42-2-331 1	17-23-2-191	24-39-0-260 10	16-25-0-150	13-20-1-204 34	knee Out	knee doubtful	knee doubtful	knee doubtful
Beuerlein	- -	-	-	-	-	-	-	3-5-0-26	-	-	-	7-12-0-109 24	14-25-0-217 66	17-29-0-184 1	9-31-0-145 4	18-35-2-228 58
E.Smith	32-112	11-112 5 catch, 75	13-44	23-182 60,12	18-67 3	32-122	19-60 2	16-66	22-62 3,1,3	12-49	17-97	34-132 32	32-109 6	27-112	25-75	32-160 4,6
Irvin	9-123 4	4-44 6	1-4	3-68	6-91 23	5-69	6-148	8-143	4-52	7-84 10	3-48	9-130 24	8-157 66	5-101	5-92 4	10-169 58
Harper	-	1-29	-	-	1-23	neck Probable	neck Probable	1-11	3-67	2-31	3-21	4-101 34	-	4-34	-	1-9
Novacek	4-50 3	7-57 3	3-32	2-16	3-27	11-121 13	1-26 26	10-131	5-38	5-75	3-26	knee doubtful	knee doubtful	4-34	3-47	1-8
Willis	38,25,22,54 -	51 -	- -	41 miss: 48,52,45	- -	23,39 miss: 40	- -	35 miss: 47	36,27 -	35,37,45 -	22,31,18 -	42 miss: 51,32	19,43 miss: 47,45,38	50,41,40 -	50,32,37 miss: 55	20 miss: 45
Others					20 fumble return	65 int return	Blake 30 run; 36 int return	Roberts 1 catch		18 blocked punt return				Johnston 1 catch; Agee 4 run	safety 85 punt return	102 kickoff return

Denver Broncos

Denver took advantage of the second-easiest schedule in the league to vault from worst to first in the AFC West last year. In '92, however, the schedule's the hardest in the AFC, with all those last-place opponents replaced by powerhouses like Washington, Philadelphia, Dallas, Buffalo, Houston and the Giants. We're anticipating a fall back to 8-8.

Although they went 12-4 last year, the Broncos weren't even impressive offensively. After blowing out Cincinnati 45-14 in the opener, Denver averaged 17.3 points per game — almost two points below the league average.

And no Broncos carried fantasy franchises to championship games. John Elway and David Treadwell, borderline top 10 scorers at their positions, were the only players worthy of fantasy roster spots last year.

Anticipate more of the same in 1992. The Broncos aren't a team that's going to help your fantasy franchise.

QUARTERBACK. You have to question what the Broncos were thinking on draft day when they selected UCLA sophomore Tommy Maddox in the first round. John Elway doesn't have a blue-chip receiver to throw to, and he had lousy protection last year, so how could the team pass on Carl Pickens or an offensive tackle?

The 32-year-old Elway was plagued by a sore shoulder for the last seven games after taking more shots than any other quarterback in the NFL. The Denver quarterback "spent more time on his back than a cheap hooker," wrote *Denver Post* columnist Woody Paige.

Elway was hit an even 100 times — 55 on running plays and 45 on sacks. Denver's pass protection was particularly bad on the road — not a good sign considering the Broncos play at Philadelphia and Washington this year.

And the quality of receivers, as they've been during Elway's entire nine-year career, is well below the league average. At least in his early years there was Steve Watson. Now the Broncos are lacking a solid bread-and-butter type receiver *and* a home-run threat.

"We got (running back) Gaston (Green), now we need to get some other guys who can make some big plays," Elway told the Denver press after the season.

It's the lack of an Andre Rison or Gary Clark that's prevented Elway from putting up big stats in Denver. Elway threw only 15 touchdown passes in 1990 and 13 last year. The last time he threw 20 touchdown passes in a season was 1985.

The only reason Elway was able to rank sixth among quarterbacks in fantasy points last year was that he ran the ball in on his own six times. Elway has run for at least 230 yards a season for eight straight years.

Because Denver gave Elway no help in the draft or Plan B and the Broncos' schedule is dramatically more difficult, it will be hard for Elway to rank among the top 10 scoring quarterbacks again this year.

Maddox actually played better as a freshman than he did last year and at 190 pounds would be snapped in half by a solid NFL hit. Unless he matures dramatically in training camp, Steve Pelluer or Shawn Moore will be the second-string quarterback.

RUNNING BACK. A couple of 1,000-yard rushers will battle for the starting tailback position, but second-year back Greg Lewis will likely score the most rushing touchdowns in the Mile High City this year.

Coach Dan Reeves used Lewis in goal-line situations last year and there's no reason to believe that will change. Lewis isn't huge at 215 pounds, but he's the biggest back in Denver. Gaston Green, a 192-pound sprinter, simply can't run between the tackles. Bobby Humphrey, who weighs 201, wasn't used as a goal-line back in 1989-90. Humphrey rushed for over 2,300 yards during those two seasons but scored only 14 of the team's 34 rushing touchdowns.

Don't look for Lewis to score more than a half dozen touchdowns, though. He won't get on the field until the ball's inside the 5-yard line, and Elway will steal some of those rushing touchdowns by taking it in on his own.

▲ **Gaston Green scored in only two games last year.**

Humphrey and Reeves have supposedly settled their differences, but Green will probably be able to hang on to his starting job — or at least split time. Even in '91, without Humphrey around, Green wasn't a fantasy force. He was the lowest scoring of the seven 1,000-yard rushers, and three of his four touchdowns came in one game. He also can't catch the ball and is quick to get injured.

Humphrey could have taken his job back from Green if he'd worked out during his 97-day holdout. The overweight Humphrey ended the year with 33 yards on 15 carries. "Bobby's a talented guy, but his holdout this year pretty much washed out his season," Reeves said. Maybe now that he's in the final year of his contract he'll want to give himself some negotiating power by having a good year.

Utility back Steve Sewell is always good for a couple of receiving touchdowns. Fullback Bob Perryman spent the offseason rehabilitating a knee injured in the final home game.

RECEIVER. Wide receiver Vance Johnson had a terrible season last year, but at least he has a sense of humor. Johnson sued HBO in the offseason because he appeared nude in the background of one of their locker room shots after the Houston playoff game. In his suit, Johnson claimed his reputation was tarnished. Right.

Johnson ought to be suing himself if he's concerned about his

reputation. This is a guy who in the preseason was hit with two paternity suits and spent time in jail for a demolition derby job on his former wife's car. He once laughed off a death threat by saying it was probably just an angry husband. And now he's concerned about his reputation?

The Broncos aren't laughing, however. While Johnson would be a reserve on most teams, he's probably Denver's best receiver. Johnson was inactive for essentially the entire first half of the season last year with a knee sprain but was the only Bronco wide receiver to score three touchdowns.

The other remaining Amigo, Mark Jackson, caught 33 passes and scored once before breaking his wrist in the 12th game. It's hard to envision him scoring more than four or five times.

The team's leading receiver, journeyman-type Michael Young, had offseason surgery on his back and isn't expected to be ready for the start of training camp. Ricky Nattiel was traded to Tampa Bay.

With the receiving corps in complete disarray, Derek Russell (21 catches, one TD) looked poised to make a run at being the go-to guy. He broke his wrist in an April basketball game, however, and is also a question mark.

No such depth problems exist at tight end. The Broncos signed pass-catcher Rob Awalt from Dallas in Plan B and also have Clarence Kay and 1991 second-rounder Reggie Johnson. Because of the wideout problems, 'tweener Shannon Sharpe could become a full-time wide receiver.

KICKER. Among all placekickers who have ever attempted 100 field goals, David Treadwell ranks third in accuracy and first for kickers with grass fields. So why is it that the Broncos leave him unprotected every year? And when they do, why doesn't Treadwell sign a multi-million dollar deal with another team?

The reason is Treadwell doesn't have a big-time leg. Anything outside 40 yards is a challenge for the former All-American from Clemson. Treadwell connected on only four of his 12 field goal attempts from 40-to-49 yards last year. He hasn't hit a 50-yard field goal in his three-year pro career.

Treadwell has finished sixth in kicking points the last two seasons. In leagues with bonus points for 50-plus yard field goals, he drops a few places. There were only four teams in the league last year that didn't have a kicker hit a field goal from at least 50 yards.

DEFENSE. On paper, Denver's defense ranks right up with Philadelphia's and New Orleans' as one of the best in the league. The Broncos led the AFC in all the major statistical categories last year. Sometimes the stats lie, though.

The Broncos allowed a league-low 12 touchdown passes, but who did they play? Nobody in the AFC West passes, and the Broncos played four other games against fifth-place teams. Only two teams on Denver's schedule finished in the top 10 in passing (No. 1 Houston, No. 9 Cleveland).

And Denver's deficiencies against the run will be exposed this year with their harder schedule. The Broncos allowed 4.4 yards per carry last year — that's worse than Indianapolis.

1991 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

Passing	Att	Comp	Yards	Pct	TD	Int	'90 TD	'89 TD
Elway	451	242	3253	53.7	13	12	15	18
Broncos	459	246	3310	53.6	13	12	15	21
Opp.	476	246	3101	51.7	12	23	22	13

Rushing	Att	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD	'90 TD	'89 TD
Green	261	1037	4.0	t63	4	0	0
Lewis	99	376	3.8	27	4	-	-
Elway	54	258	4.8	t17	6	3	3
Broncos	506	2018	4.0	t63	16	19	15
Opp.	411	1794	4.4	49	8	16	10

Receiving	No	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD	'90 TD	'89 TD
Young	44	629	14.3	t52	2	4	2
Sewell	38	436	11.5	60	2	0	3
Jackson	33	603	18.3	71	1	5	2
Sharpe	22	322	14.6	37	1	1	-
Russell	21	317	15.1	40	1	-	-
V.Johnson	21	208	9.9	22	3	3	7
Broncos	246	3310	13.5	71	13	15	21
Opp.	246	3101	12.6	63	12	22	13

Kicking	XP-A	FG-A	Lg	Pts	'90 Pts	'89 Pts
Treadwell	31/32	27/36	47	112	109	120
Opp.	22/22	27/33	49	103	116	76

	Cin. 45-14	at Rdrs. 13-16	Sea. 16-10	S.D. 27-19	at Minn. 13-6	at Hou. 14-42	K.C. 19-16	at N.E. 9-6	Pitt. 20-13	Rdrs. 16-17	at K.C. 24-20	at Sea. 10-13	N.E. 20-3	at Clev. 17-7	Phoe. 24-19	at S.D. 17-14
Elway	18-28-0-262 **3,5 runs,52,1**	15-29-0-240 **3**	19-32-0-252 **61**	17-28-1-218	8-22-0-82 **17 run**	24-42-1-301 **3,70**	14-27-0-270 **22**	15-27-0-154	10-23-1-140 **4 run**	13-31-2-191 **7 run,10**	9-20-0-134 **29**	13-23-2-132	18-25-0-215 **21**	16-29-1-221 **38,6**	19-33-3-245 **4 run, 3**	14-32-1-196
Green	24-116	11-25	25-92	24-127 **5,63,20**	26-158	15-36	thigh Probable	thigh Questnble	thigh doubtful	18-103	24-133 **60**	19-49	14-7	23-51	13-50	25-90
Lewis	8-35 **1**	1-(-1)	-	-	2-1	1-10	17-54	18-59	19-111 **1**	9-32	3-3	1-2	15-68 **12**	2-1	2-(-1)	1-2 **1**
Sewell	2-10	0-0 **3 catch**	0-0	1-8	1-9	5-23 **3 catch**	5-21	4-10	2-1	3-19	3-9	3-6	3-24	2-6	6-40 **8**	9-28 **2**
Humphrey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-0	5-15	-	-	-	-	-	5-18	-
Young	4-84 **52**	2-16	7-63	2-27	3-36	3-30	4-69	1-10	2-32	1-7	2-21	1-20	5-76	2-38 **30**	3-36	2-64
V.Johnson	knee (IR) Out	knee (IR) Out	knee (IR) Out	knee (IR) Out	2-15	-	-	1-5	-	1-10 **10**	-	1-11	3-42 **21**	5-35 **6**	4-58	4-32
Jackson	2-53	2-49	1-14	4-80	1-13	7-111	2-80	3-25	3-54	4-57	2-40 **29**	2-27	wrist (IR) Out	IR Out	IR Out	IR Out
Treadwell	**19** miss: 42,30	**22,47** -	**17,25,35** -	**34,23** -	**37,42** -	- miss: 30	**39,30,25,27** -	**35,18,34** miss: 47	**28,21** miss: 45	**19** miss: XP,48	**37** miss: 35	**23** miss: 47	**20,24** -	**37** -	**18** -	**42** miss: 45
Others	Johnson 1 catch; 52 int. ret.		Nattiel 61 catch			Nattiel 70 catch	Russell 22 catch				26 int return	22 fumble return			Sharpe 3 catch	

Detroit Lions

Wayne Fontes has brought in former San Diego coach Dan Hennings to redesign the Lion offense. The run-and-shoot isn't gone, but Fontes wants to be able to move in and out of his four-receiver formation when teams try to gang up on Barry Sanders.

"You look at what Washington does," Fontes told *The Detroit Free Press* after the season, "that's what I'm looking for. Boom, you've got four wide receivers, then you've got a tight end and two receivers, all of a sudden you've got two running backs and two wide receivers. I'm trying to diversify it as much as I can but keep the things we like."

Don't count on a compete overhaul, though. Fontes said the same thing last year after he dumped Mouse Davis and June Jones, and nothing changed. Maybe he's just trying to trick his NFC Central rivals into not studying the run-and-shoot at their training camps.

QUARTERBACK. At quarterback in Detroit, the question isn't so much who will start as who will finish.

Rodney Peete, who was operating at 100 percent in May after suffering a torn achilles tendon in week eight last year, should have little difficulty winning back his starting quarterback job for the fourth straight year. His problem has been that he's lost it every year because of injury. Peete has started only 23 of the Lions' 50 games the past three years.

Last year, Erik Kramer took over when Peete went down. He had his ups and downs but was able to take the team on the six-game win streak that won the NFC Central. Kramer's fantasy stats while at the controls weren't anything special, though. He threw 10 touchdown passes in nine games.

Considering Kramer's checkered football past, he'll need to do a little more proving on the field before he'll prove himself worthy of a fantasy roster spot. This is a guy who was cut by a CFL team after completing fewer than 41 percent of his passes.

Peete is capable of decent fantasy numbers because of his excellent running skills — although you wonder if he'll begin to scramble less because he keeps getting hurt. In 1990, Peete was a pleasant fantasy surprise with 13 TD passes and six running scores in only 11 games. His numbers last year were well below average.

Peete needs a new contract, which could be interesting with super-expensive Andre Ware sitting on the bench. He can't afford a holdout because the Lions are implementing a new offense — yet another question mark that pushes him down to backup status for fantasy teams.

Ware didn't even get on the field until the Lions were down 34-10 in the fourth quarter of the NFC Championship game. The Lions maintain they haven't given up on the former first rounder, but their actions indicate otherwise. When Peete got hurt, they tried to pick up scatter-armed Chris Chandler.

RUNNING BACK. The most amazing stat on Barry Sanders may be his age. Here's a guy who's rushed for 4,322 yards and scored 47 touchdowns in his three years, and he's just turning 24 years old a couple days after the Lions hit training camp.

There were only four starting running backs in the league last year younger than Sanders. If NFL defenses think — or hope — that he'll slow down anytime soon, they have another thing coming. Sanders had his best year ever last year and might still be getting better.

Sanders had a personal-high eight 100-yard games last year to go with his team record 1,548 yards and 17 touchdowns. He also had the four longest touchdown gallops of his career — from 45, 47, 51 and 69 yards.

"You can't prepare for the things he does," Dallas linebacker Jack Del Rio told *Sports Illustrated*. "You just have to plan on catching him and hanging on."

Easier said than done. First of all, Sanders' darting moves make it difficult for defenders to even touch him. And even when he is grabbed it's not sure he'll go down. Buffalo Pro Bowler Cornelius Bennett got hold of Sanders and flung him to the ground, but Sanders used one arm to land like a tripod before continuing a spectacular run.

▲ **Erik Kramer filled in and led the team to six straight wins.**

"No. 20 defied a lot of laws of physics and gravity," said Darryl Talley, a teammate of Bennett's. "I've never been awed by a back before, but that guy was just great."

Depth became a major problem when unprotected backups Cedric Jackson and Don Overton signed with other teams. Fontes likes D.J. Dozier, but the former Viking is training with the Mets again and might not be around until October.

RECEIVER. Detroit's version of the run-and-shoot doesn't put up the same kind of passing numbers as you'll see in Atlanta or Houston.

The Falcons had two of the top four scoring receivers last year. The Oilers had two of the three receivers who caught 90 passes. Detroit didn't even have one of the top 34 pass catchers in football, and the one receiver who caught seven TDs was an eighth-round draft choice who spent a year on the practice roster.

Willie Green, who didn't even play in 1990, was the big surprise. Operating as an outside receiver, the former Mississippi Rebel provided the big plays fans were expecting out of disappointing first-rounder Herman Moore. Green uses his 6-foot-2 frame to shield the ball from defenders and caught seven touchdowns. He dropped a few balls, though, and cooled off after Rodney Peete went down. At least he put together a couple of good games in the playoffs. Green caught eight

passes for 115 yards and two touchdowns against Dallas and also scored in the NFC Championship game.

Moore was extremely slow adjusting to the run-and-shoot, although he did better down the stretch when the Lions switched him from a slot to outside receiver. The former Virginia star finally emerged in the playoffs, catching 10 passes for 156 yards and a touchdown in two games. "I told you guys Herman Moore was going to be a tremendous receiver," Fontes said to the media after the playoff win over Dallas. "It was just a matter of getting him in the game."

Green and Moore project as the top fantasy scoring prospects on the team at wide receiver because of their size and leaping ability in end zone situations, but most of the receiving work runs through the inside slot positions. Last year the team's three leading pass catchers were all inside receivers — Brett Perriman, Robert Clark and Mike Farr, who combined for 141 receptions and eight touchdowns (the outside receivers had 12 touchdowns).

Perriman led the team in receiving despite being acquired only a week before the season in a trade with New Orleans. He becomes an interesting prospect with Clark gone (he signed a Plan B deal with Miami). However, with the Lions' talk of using more two-receiver formations, it's risky to use anything but a late-round pick on Perriman. Green and Moore would project to be the two starters in a conventional offense.

Fontes said in the offseason that he wanted to get a tight end "built like Godzilla with moves like a gazelle." Instead he settled for Plan B pickup Jimmie Johnson from Washington and third-rounder Thomas McLemore of Southern. Johnson became expendable to the Redskins when Terry Orr emerged. Eugene Riley, with one catch, was the leading tight end last year.

KICKER. After trading up to draft Jason Hanson in the second round, Fontes handled the replacement of Eddie Murray with some class. Rather than bringing the 13-year vet into camp and giving him any false hopes of a fair competition, Fontes announced Murray no longer fit in the team's plans. Now Murray is free to try to land a job with another club, such as Dallas, Cincinnati or Houston.

Hanson, the highest drafted kicker since Chip Lohmiller, arrives at Detroit with the most heralded leg in the history of college football. The Washington State grad has hit 20 field goals from 50-plus yards in his career, including a record 62-yarder at UNLV last year. Remember, colleges narrowed the college goalposts to NFL specs and outlawed kicking tees last season.

In leagues awarding double value for kicks from over 50 yards, Hanson's long-distance leg could pay big dividends. He's hit 9-of-14 in the range of 50-54 yards the last two years, and three of the misses were blocks.

DEFENSE. The Lions finished below average in yards and touchdowns allowed last year, even though the team played the easiest schedule in the NFC. So it was no surprise when Detroit went for a defensive lineman and linebacker with its first two picks in the draft. The Lions sacked opposing quarterbacks only 30 times last year.

Their defense did have a knack for coming up with big scoring plays, however. Detroit scored on two fumble returns and two interceptions last year. Kick returner Mel Gray scored once and became the first man ever to lead the NFL in both punt and kickoff returns.

1991 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

Passing	Att	Comp	Yards	Pct	TD	Int	'90 TD	'89 TD
Kramer	265	136	1635	51.3	11	8	-	-
Peete	194	116	1339	59.8	5	9	13	5
Lions	459	252	2974	54.9	16	17	24	11
Opp.	534	315	3523	59.0	16	19	21	19

Rushing	Att	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD	'90 TD	'89 TD
Sanders	342	1548	4.5	t69	16	13	14
Peete	25	125	5.0	26	2	6	4
Lions	454	1930	4.3	t69	19	19	23
Opp.	444	1760	4.0	t59	16	22	18

Receiving	No	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD	'90 TD	'89 TD
Perriman	52	668	12.8	42	1	2	0
Clark	47	640	13.6	t68	6	8	2
Farr	42	431	10.3	t34	1	0	-
Sanders	41	307	7.5	34	1	3	0
Green	39	592	15.2	t73	7	0	-
Moore	11	135	12.3	21	0	-	-
Lions	252	2974	11.8	t73	16	24	11
Opp.	315	3523	11.2	51	16	21	19

Kicking	XP-A	FG-A	Lg	Pts	'90 Pts	'89 Pts
Murray	40/40	19/28	50	97	73	96
Opp.	34/34	19/28	47	91	117	110

	at Wash. 0-45	G.B. 23-14	Mia. 17-13	at Ind. 33-24	T.B. 31-3	Minn. 24-20	at S.F. 3-35	Dall. 34-10	at Chi. 10-20	at T.B. 21-30	Rams 21-10	at Minn. 34-14	Chi. 16-6	Jets 34-20	at G.B. 21-17	at Buff. 17-14
Peete	8-21-3-75	25-38-0-271 12	13-24-1-173 6 run,26	17-23-2-167 7 run	12-22-1-159 26	24-38-1-281 68,16	14-24-1-183	3-3-0-30	achilles Out	achilles Out	achilles Out	achilles Out	achilles Out	achilles Out	achilles Out	achilles Out
Kramer	0-0-0-0	-	-	2-2-0-27 11	-	-	0-3-0-0	9-16-0-108 26,10	19-40-2-218 11	20-30-2-248 1 run	15-25-0-185 6,11,34	13-26-0-124	9-27-1-108 9	18-31-1-235 73	14-29-0-131 19,3	17-36-2-251
Sanders	ribs Questnble	18-42 4	32-143	30-179 2,23	27-160 7,1,69	25-116 15	7-26	21-55 10 catch	18-63	23-118 1,5	26-57	23-220 17,45,4,9	19-62	20-114 14,51	27-85	26-108 1
W.Green	1-16	3-39 12	2-29 26	1-11 11	3-66 26	7-73 16	-	4-57 26	3-54	2-15	4-52	1-9	2-33	4-91 73	-	2-47
R.Clark	-	10-143	5-57	3-51	3-25	2-83 68	1-7	chest doubtful	chest out	4-54	3-25 6,11	1-13	3-28 9	5-61	3-39 19,3	4-54
Perriman	-	2-16	2-38	6-63	3-53	3-21	6-89	1-10	4-33 11	6-127	2-17	5-66	2-33	3-38	2-20	5-44
H.Moore	-	-	1-14	-	-	-	1-8	2-18	5-70	-	-	-	-	-	-	2-25
Murray	- -	41,27,36 miss: 50	46 miss: 51	19 miss: 48	38 miss: 48	47 miss: 47	37 -	44,32 -	31 -	- -	- -	37,50 miss: 23	21,50,37 -	43,37 miss: 43,39	- -	21 miss:30
Others				safety				55 fumb return 96 int return			Farr 34 catch			28 fumble return	78 punt return	18 int. return

Green Bay Packers

San Francisco offensive coordinator Mike Holmgren was an unusual choice as the new Packer coach, cynics said, because he's essentially a carbon copy of the fired Lindy Infante.

One of the big reasons Infante couldn't win was that the Packers couldn't run the football. Green Bay failed to have a 500-yard rusher in each of the past two seasons, and Infante's complex passing attack didn't work.

Holmgren also has a reputation as an aerial tactician, with his coaching roots dating back to a four-year stint as Brigham Young's quarterback coach. And the 49ers' own problems on the ground during the past couple of years are well documented.

The need to run the ball in Green Bay is even more important than in San Francisco because of extreme weather conditions — and because the Packers don't have Joe Montana, Jerry Rice and John Taylor. The word going into the season is that Holmgren won't ignore the run as Infante did.

"People here miscast Mike Holmgren," General Manager Ron Wolf said. "Mike believes in running the ball. You have to be able to do that here, and Mike's going to do that."

We shall see.

QUARTERBACK. In Green Bay last year, Don Majkowski was healthy for half the season but it was Mike Tomczak who put up the more "majikal" numbers. Majkowski threw only three touchdown passes in eight starts and was plagued by eight interceptions and 10 fumbles. When Majkowski injured his hamstring in the Jets game, Tomczak stepped in and went on to throw 10 TD passes in the team's final seven games.

It's really a put-up or shut-up year for Majkowski, whose stellar '89 season seems as far back in history now as a Lombardi Super Bowl. The Majik Man hasn't been able to stay healthy the past two seasons, and after all the extensive surgery on his throwing shoulder you have to wonder if he can put together a 16-game season.

Even when healthy, Majkowski didn't come close to looking like a quarterback with a Pro Bowl on his resume. How about that 3-for-16, 32-yard game against Chicago?

Don't underestimate Tomczak's achievements. The former Bear actually finished tied for fourth in the entire NFL in fantasy points generated per start last year — outscored by only Steve Young, Mark Rypien and Jim Kelly. And Tomczak and Dan Marino were the only signal callers to score in every game during the second half of the season.

Though Tomczak heads into training camp second on the depth chart behind Majkowski, he's established himself as a legitimate contender. The Packers paid him some respect by including him on their 37-man list of protected players. Tomczak was left unprotected by Chicago last year.

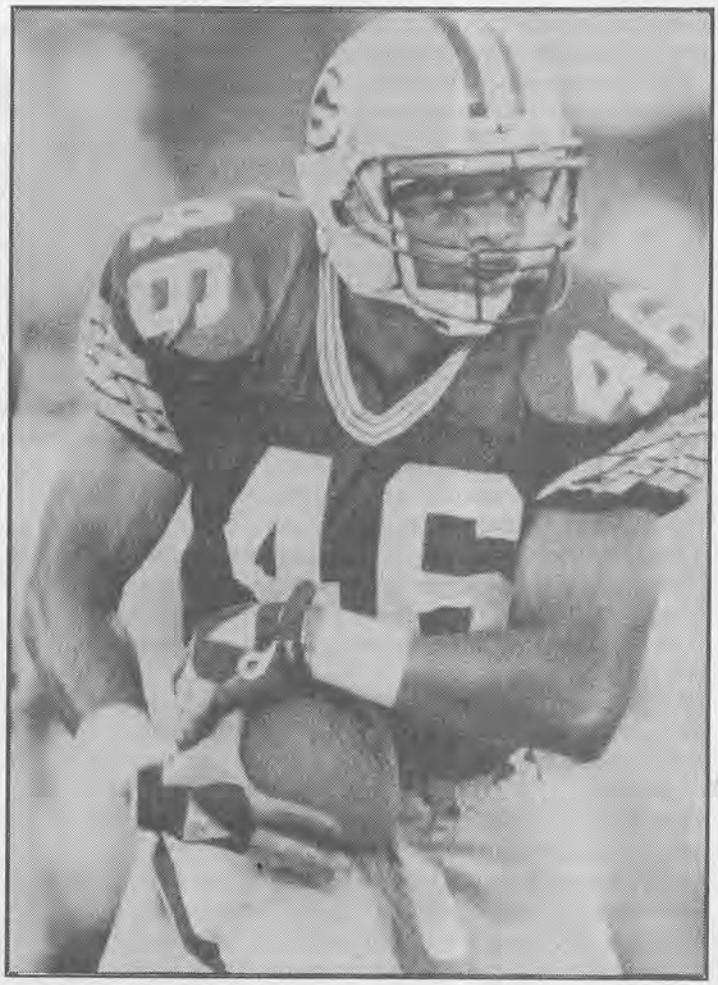
Holmgren solidified the position for the future by trading a late first-rounder to Atlanta for Brett Favre — whom the Falcons had taken early in the second round in 1991.

Considering Majkowksi's injury problems, Holmgren knew he needed to add a young quarterback. By trading for Favre he avoided getting involved with this year's questionable quarterback class, and insured he wouldn't have any holdout hassles. The 6-foot-2 220-pounder from Southern Mississippi was at the Packers' April minicamp.

"I'd like to develop a guy, and that process usually takes two, three years, so we may as well get started now," Holmgren said.

Favre probably won't be ready to guide the Packers this year. But he's a nice player to stash on a roster in leagues that don't redraft every year.

RUNNING BACK. The Packers haven't had a running back go over the 1,000-yard mark since Terdell Middleton in 1978, and in the '90's haven't even had a runner gain 500 yards.



▲ **Unheralded Vince Workman scored 11 times last year.**

The Pack set a franchise record in 1990 by averaging only 86 yards rushing per game. How much did they improve in 1991? To 87 a game. At this rate, they'll have the ground game in shape in the year 2021.

Help probably won't arrive soon, but in Vince Workman at least the Packers have a decent scorer they can offer for fantasy franchises. The former Ohio State Buckeye was one of the scoring shockers of the '91 season, finding the end zone 11 times.

Workman displayed fine receiving abilities in his third pro season, catching 46 passes, including four for touchdowns. That virtually guarantees him a major role in the new Holmgren offense, as he's the only back on the team with proven receiving skills. The Packers sent Keith Woodside to Dallas in a late-April trade and 1990 No. 1 Darrell Thompson has lousy hands.

How much Holmgren lets Workman run with the ball remains to be seen. Workman's 3.3 yard average last year was deceptive because he handled the team's short-yardage situations. He must like Workman's running some, however, because he had Thompson playing fullback at the spring minicamp.

Thompson, who was drafted before Rodney Hampton of the Giants, led the team in rushing last year with 471 yards. He hasn't been more of a factor because of his subpar blocking and receiving skills. There's a chance he'll move back to tailback since the Pack drafted fullback Edgar Bennett of Florida State.

RECEIVER. When Holmgren was the offensive coordinator in San

Francisco, he never got caught up with using Jerry Rice as a decoy, which a lot of teams do with their top receivers. Instead, he designed the offense around Rice — with *more* balls being thrown his way. The results, as you've seen, have been the biggest receiving numbers in the history of the league.

Sharpe is in the elite class of NFL receivers. He's certainly the most dangerous weapon on the Packers. It will be interesting to see if Holmgren can find a way to thwart the double-teaming that has shackled Sharpe since his 1,423-yard receiving year in 1989.

Sharpe caught 90 balls and scored 13 touchdowns that year. In fantasy drafts, he should be one of the first receivers taken after the proven blue-chippers are off the board.

Before long, the receiver starting opposite Sharpe may be another South Carolina Gamecock — Robert Brooks. As a four-year college starter, Brooks turned in the same type of receiving numbers as Sharpe, scoring 19 times. The Pack also drafted speedy Orlando McKay of Washington in the fifth round.

The starter opposite Sharpe the last three years has been Perry Kemp, a 30-year-old who's been cut by two other teams. Kemp's never caught more than two TDs in a season. Young speedster Charles Wilson, who returned a kickoff for a touchdown last year, is also available.

The Packers and the Raiders were the only teams in the league last year to have two tight ends score three or more times. It may not happen in Green Bay again this season, however. In his second year, Jackie Harris moved past veteran Ed West and established himself as the top tight end on the team.

Harris caught 24 passes last year and took three in for touchdowns in the final seven games. West caught only 15 balls.

KICKER. Chris Jacke had the worst of his three seasons as a pro last year, hitting on 18 of 24 field goals and missing the first game-winning kick of his career. Not the kind of numbers we've come to expect from the former UTEP star.

For Jacke to emerge as a top scoring kicker, he'll need some help from the Packers' sluggish offense. Jacke finished eighth in kicking points in 1989 when the Packers finished 10-6; last year he slumped to 20th.

DEFENSE. The Green Bay defense was a quiet success story last year. The Packers allowed opponents to gain only 3.4 yards per rush attempt, second-best in the league behind Philadelphia. Even with Tim Harris gone to San Francisco, there was a pass rush, with underpublicized linebacker Tony Bennett getting 13 sacks.

The Packers, who had ranked a lowly 22nd in overall defense in 1990, managed to move up to 10th last year. They still allowed a below-average 35 TDs, however.

First-rounder Terrell Buckley figures he can return some interceptions for touchdowns and turn a good defense into a great one. The former Florida State cornerback told the Green Bay media as much on draft day. "I saw a lot of their games last year, and they were close in so many of them. They just didn't have the guys to step up and make the big plays with the game on the line. You need that great player to make some great plays. I can do that."

1991 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

Passing	Att	Comp	Yards	Pct	TD	Int	'90 TD	'89 TD
Tomczak	238	128	1490	53.8	11	9	3	16
Majkowski	226	115	1362	50.9	3	8	10	27
Packers	514	272	3213	52.9	17	19	20	27
Opp.	531	305	3573	57.4	20	15	20	22

Rushing	Att	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD	'90 TD	'89 TD
Thompson	141	471	3.3	t40	1	1	-
Woodside	84	326	3.9	29	1	1	1
Workman	71	237	3.3	t30	7	0	1
Packers	381	1389	3.6	48	12	5	13
Opp.	457	1546	3.4	27	10	16	15

Receiving	No	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD	'90 TD	'89 TD
Sharpe	69	961	13.9	t58	4	6	13
Workman	46	371	8.1	25	4	1	0
Kemp	42	583	13.9	39	2	2	2
Harris	24	264	11.0	35	3	0	-
Woodside	22	185	8.4	28	0	0	0
Packers	272	3213	11.8	t75	17	20	27
Opp.	305	3573	11.7	t87	20	20	22

Kicking	XP-A	FG-A	Lg	Pts	'90 Pts	'89 Pts
Jacke	31/31	18/24	53	85	97	108
Opp.	34/35	23/31	52	103	105	108

	Phil. 3-20	at Det. 14-23	T.B. 15-13	at Mia. 13-16	at Rams 21-23	Dall. 17-20	Chi. 0-10	at T.B. 27-0	at Jets 16-19	Buff. 24-34	Minn. 21-35	Ind. 14-10	at Atl. 31-35	at Chi. 13-27	Det. 17-21	at Minn. 27-7
Tomczak	-	-	-	-	-	-	4-9-1-36	-	8-11-1-73 1	23-38-2-317 58,1	20-40-2-271 75,1	5-17-1-50 2 run	22-35-0-276 4,13,20	22-39-1-215 1	18-40-1-207 12	6-9-0-45 12
Majkowski	16-42-3-201	20-28-1-185 2 run	20-38-1-258 8	19-36-1-238 14	3-8-1-38 2 run	shoulder doubtful	3-16-0-32	19-28-1-223 10	10-19-0-123	hamstring Questnble	hamstring doubtful	hamstring Out	hamstring doubtful	hamstring Probable	-	5-10-0-64
Workman	2-14	4-9 1	2-8 8 catch	2-(-1)	4-3 5 catch	6-22	2-28	11-20 4	9-36	2-2 1	2-9 1	5-9 1	3-16	3-0	8-35 12 catch,30	6-27 12 catch,1
Thompson	6-16	14-45	4-8	knee Out	-	-	8-27	6-2	8-15	13-60	8-16	15-63	18-93 40	14-48	15-71	12-7
Sharpe	6-70	1-20	6-95	4-64	4-43	4-65 13	2-28	4-63	2-22	8-133 58	5-71	1-8	7-98 4,20	7-82	6-83	2-16
Kemp	2-39	8-66	2-42	2-48	4-57 2	1-35	1-13	4-36	2-31	2-48	4-50	-	5-86 13	1-9	3-19	1-4
Harris	1-16	-	-	1-10	4-74	1-4	-	-	1-5	2-19 1	2-15 1	1-19	4-29	3-36 1	2-20	2-17
West	1-10	-	2-14	3-29 14	-	-	-	3-24 10	1-1 1	2-39	-	-	-	2-15	1-19	-
Jacke	21 -	- miss: 48	24,22 miss: 31	28,34 -	- -	42 -	- -	46,34 miss: 42	53,41,34 miss: 42	25 -	- -	- -	27 -	25,35 miss: 49	23 -	42,39 miss: 47
Others			safety		Kiel 2 & 5 throws	Wilson 82 KO; Kiel 13 throw		1 fumble return			Wilson 75 catch					Woodside 10 run

Houston Oilers

The run-and-shoot is alive and well in Houston. Sure, it scored seven fewer touchdowns last year than it had in Jack Pardee's first season as coach. But credit the NFC East for the decline in output. The Oilers were 1-3 in their four games against the Redskins, Eagles, Giants and Cowboys, scoring only five touchdowns over those four games — seven short of their usual average for four games.

This year, however, pencil in the defense-weak NFC Central on their schedule, instead of the NFC East. The Packers, Vikings and Lions sure aren't going to hold the Oilers to a combined five touchdowns. And even the toughest defense Houston will face from the NFC Central, Chicago, has to contend with the Oilers at home, on the Astrodome turf.

While Atlanta and Detroit hint at moving away from or modifying their reliance on the run-and-shoot, Pardee says he has no intention of abandoning it. "I really don't worry about what anyone else does. I'd just as soon be the only team in the league doing any of it. It's a good system or we wouldn't use it."

QUARTERBACK. Warren Moon may slide in some drafts because his TD production slipped to 23 last year and the Oilers lost three receivers through Plan B. If he does slip out of the top 10 overall picks in a fantasy draft, he could be one of the steals of the year.

Keep in mind that we're talking about a guy who set NFL records for attempts and completions last year, and the Oilers had 600 more passing yards than any other team. It really gives you an idea of how much they throw the ball in the run-and-shoot when you consider Moon attempted 106 more passes than Dan Marino last year.

No wonder Moon had the bothersome 21 interceptions. He's throwing the ball 200-300 more times than the other quarterbacks.

The loss of the receivers through Plan B is overrated. Drew Hill, at 35, is still a decent wideout, but the other two receivers lost were a 139-pound spot player and a converted college running back. Big deal.

Note that even in his "down" year, Moon threw 23 touchdowns and ran a couple in on his own to finish fifth among quarterbacks in fantasy scoring. And the three teams he didn't throw TDs against were all NFC East teams that aren't on the schedule this year.

Cody Carlson deserves a spot on a fantasy roster in most leagues because if Moon goes down, he immediately becomes a quarterback capable of top 10-type numbers. No. 3 Reggie Slack was putting up borderline numbers in the World League in May.

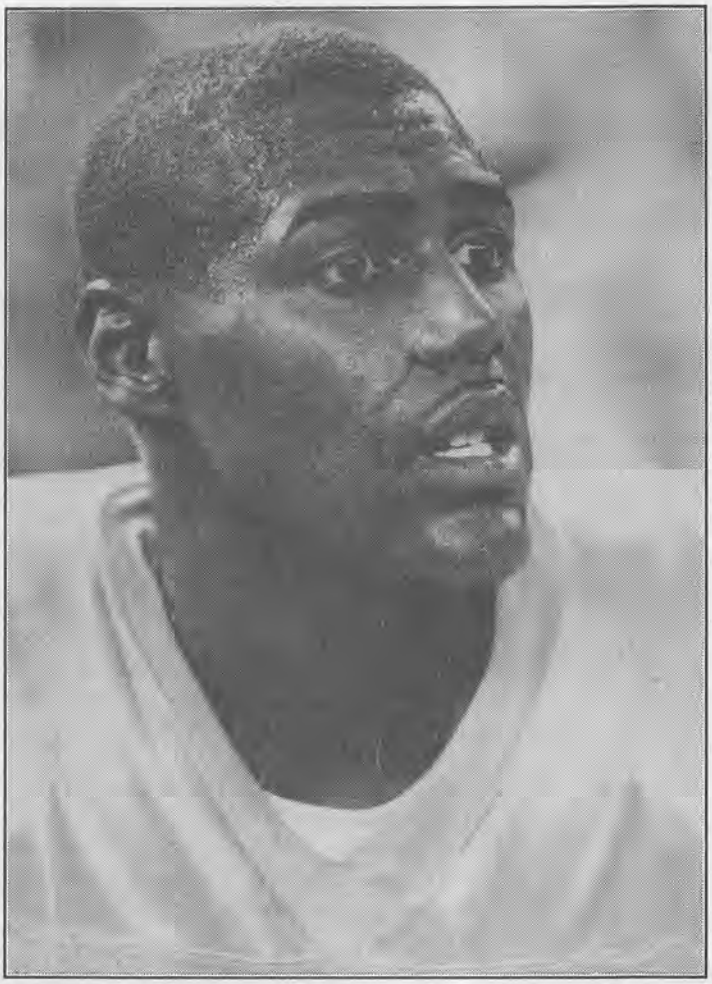
RUNNING BACK. Lorenzo White is average at best in terms of NFL talent, but there's hardly a safer pick for fantasy coaches looking to bolster their running attacks.

White, with the offseason trade of Allen Pinkett to New Orleans, is essentially the only back the Oilers have. On a team that scored 16 rushing TDs last year, that should virtually guarantee he'll score 10-12 times this season.

White scored 12 times in 1990 but lost his starting job last year when his bitter holdout lasted a week into the regular season. Pinkett started the entire season and scored 10 TDs, while White scored four times.

It was somewhat surprising that New Orleans was willing to give up as much as a fifth-rounder for Pinkett, a 28-year-old who weighs only 195 pounds. Pinkett started the year with a couple of 100-yard games, then averaged 3.8 yards per carry the rest of the way, even though most of the carries in the run-and-shoot come on draws and delays.

White would have easily beaten out Pinkett for the starting spot because he's a superior blocker. In the run-and-shoot there's no tight end, so the running back often has to protect the quarterback's blind side. White may not be the long-term solution in Houston because of his so-so speed (long carry of 22 yards the last two years) but he'll be a super back for fantasy teams this year.



▲ **Haywood Jeffires caught 100 balls; 8 percent went for TDs.**

With the departure of Pinkett, second-year man Gary Brown becomes an interesting darkhorse. What if White gets injured? Brown was impressive in limited duty last year, running 39 yards for a touchdown against the Raiders in garbage time. He'll get a long look in preseason.

Let's not overestimate his chances of replacing White, however. We're talking about an eighth-round draft choice who was playing safety as recently as his junior year at Penn State. Brown was the guy who ripped the ball out of Ty Detmer's hands and ran for the winning touchdown in the Holiday Bowl.

RECEIVER. The big question with Drew Hill signing with Atlanta is, which Oiler receivers will absorb his production? Hill had 90 of the 353 receptions by Oiler wide receivers last year, for four touchdowns.

Look for Ernest Givins to be the biggest benefactor. He's been knocked for running erratic pass routes, but he's the only proven slot receiver on the team. The only thing that can stop him from being productive, it seems, is a holdout with the team. Givins has asked to be traded, but General Manager Mike Holovak isn't taking him seriously. "He just likes to talk," Holovak told the *Houston Post*. "Most of the time, what he's saying isn't worth listening to."

It's ironic that Givins complained at the end of the season after coming within 100 yards of, but missing, a 1,000-yard season for the fourth time in five years. He'll certainly go over 1,000 this year and will probably catch 20 or 30 more passes.

It's hard to see Haywood Jeffires catching many more passes — he led

the league with 100 grabs last year — but Hill's exit really nails his role down as one of the go-to guys. His 15 TDs in the last two years may not look like much, but only five receivers have more in that time span.

It's the other two receiving spots in the run-and-shoot that will need to show the most improvement.

Curtis Duncan shared time with tiny Tony Jones (Plan B, Atlanta) last year at the right outside receiving spot. Assuming that Jeff Query doesn't bite into his playing time too much, he could be in for a 70-catch, five-TD-type season.

Rookies Corey Harris (third round), Mario Bailey (sixth), and Elbert Turner (seventh) will compete with Pat Coleman and veteran journeyman Leonard Harris for Hill's vacant slot receiver position. The Oilers are high on Harris, who starred at running back for Vanderbilt after playing wide receiver for two years, but we expect Bailey to be the starter on opening day.

Bailey was one of the big reasons the Washington Huskies went undefeated last year. He was more productive than Desmond Howard, catching 68 passes for 1,163 yards and 18 touchdowns in the tough Pac-10 Conference. The only reason the Oilers waited until the sixth round to draft him was they knew Bailey's computer numbers (170 pounds, 4.6 speed) made him unattractive for regular offenses.

KICKER. The Oilers missed a berth in the AFC championship game because of their poor kicking game. Ian Howfield lost the Redskin game by missing a 33-yarder, costing the Oilers home-field advantage in the playoffs. And in the playoffs Al Del Greco, who replaced Howfield, missed a 33-yarder at Denver that allowed David Treadwell to kick the game-winner with 16 seconds left.

General Manager Mike Holovak was left kicking himself for letting Tony Zendejas escape via Plan B.

The Oilers drafted Joe Wood of Air Force in the 12th round, but he's got a five-year military commitment. Houston was also trying to sign University of Houston kicker Roman Anderson to a free agent deal, but he was only 8-for-23 lifetime in the 40-49 yard range.

Whoever emerges as the Oiler placekicker will be a steady performer for fantasy teams. If there had been a decent kicker in Houston last year, he would have finished third in scoring.

1991 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

Passing	Att	Comp	Yards	Pct	TD	Int	'90 TD	'89 TD
Moon	655	404	4690	61.7	23	21	33	23
Oilers	667	411	4804	61.6	24	21	37	23
Opp.	532	310	3522	58.3	17	20	18	28

Rushing	Att	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD	'90 TD	'89 TD
Pinkett	171	720	4.2	32	9	0	1
White	110	465	4.2	20	4	8	5
Oilers	331	1366	4.1	t39	16	10	16
Opp.	407	1540	3.8	24	8	12	20

Receiving	No	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD	'90 TD	'89 TD
Jeffires	100	1181	11.8	44	7	8	2
Hill	90	1109	12.3	t61	4	5	8
Givins	70	996	14.2	49	5	9	3
Duncan	55	588	10.7	42	4	1	5
Pinkett	29	228	7.9	t36	1	0	1
White	27	211	7.8	20	0	4	0
Oilers	411	4804	11.7	t68	24	37	23
Opp.	310	3522	11.4	t80	17	18	28

Kicking	XP-A	FG-A	Lg	Pts	'90 Pts	'89 Pts
Howfield	25/29	13/18	46	64	-	-
Del Greco	16/16	10/13	52	46	82	82
Oilers	41/46	23/31	52	110	109	115
Opp.	26/26	23/29	55	95	85	100

DEFENSE. The Oiler offense gets all the publicity, but Pardee has done a remarkable job retooling a defense left in shambles by Jerry Glanville. Houston allowed 412 points under Glanville; Pardee's already worked that total down to 251.

Particularly impressive is the defensive line, where there is depth and talent galore. Houston allowed only two rushing touchdowns in nine home games last year.

The Oiler defense scored on its own six times last year, sharing the league lead with Atlanta and Dallas. All of those points were created through pressure. Houston was a top-five team in sacks (45) and turnovers (38) last year.

	Rdrs. 47-17	at Cin. 30-7	K.C. 17-7	at N.E. 20-24	Den. 42-14	at Jets 23-30	at Mia. 17-13	Cin. 35-3	at Wash. 13-16	Dall. 26-23	Clev. 28-24	at Pitt. 14-26	Phil. 6-13	Pitt. 31-6	at Clev. 17-14	at Gnts. 20-24
Moon	18-33-0-250 **1 run,22,28**	22-37-1-315 **22**	29-38-0-233 **4**	20-44-2-268 **35,5**	19-31-1-334 **3,36**	35-50-2-423 **3,37**	21-35-3-171 **1**	24-37-2-289 **6,61,14**	25-44-2-250	41-56-0-432	31-44-1-399 **4,40,1**	24-48-5-324 **10,15**	24-46-0-262	23-36-1-254 **16**	26-40-1-250 **7,2**	22-36-0-236 **6 run,5**
Pinkett	26-144 **8**	21-101 **31**	18-47 **1**	8-32	9-18 **36 catch,1**	3-(-1)	8-32	16-86 **2**	2-5	10-51 **1**	7-26 **5**	7-18	6-10	16-98 **7,11**	8-20	6-33
White	-	-	-	8-53	9-34 **1**	11-24 **1**	17-74	3-1	11-14 **1**	15-81 **4**	7-20	6-9	2-5	2-21	9-47	10-82
Jeffires	2-11	4-91 **22**	9-60 **4**	7-98	5-63 **3**	13-166	4-31	5-37 **5**	4-37	8-83	6-80	8-122 **15**	8-82	6-77 **16**	7-91 **2**	4-32
Givins	6-90 **22**	5-73	4-54	2-24	5-151	4-44	6-55	3-38 **14**	2-20	4-59	5-77	4-48 **10**	6-89	5-44 (foot-Q)	3-43 **7**	6-89 **5**
Hill	3-32	4-65	3-23	3-48	2-24	6-80 **37**	5-63	6-129 **61**	9-83	8-95	11-144 **40,1**	3-53	4-38	8-97	8-60	7-75
Duncan	2-10	3-48	5-35	4-62 **35,5**	2-26	8-67 **3**	2-6 **1**	9-76	1-23	5-48	3-60	5-62	-	2-32	2-12	2-21
Howfield	**35,46** miss: XP	**19,21,37** -	**23** miss: 53	**38,28** -	- miss: 32	**23** miss: XP	**26** miss: 56	**33** miss: 3XPs,45	**24,23** miss: 33	waived						
Del Greco	free agent	free agent	free agent	free agent	free agent	free agent	free agent	free agent	free agent	**52,22,19,23** miss: 41	- miss:25	- -	**42,47** -	**24** miss: 35	**27** -	**37,34** -
Others	Jones 28 catch 19 fumb ret Brown 39 run	52 int return			19 fumble return; blocked punt recovery		33 int return	Jones 68 pass from Carlson			Coleman 4 catch			70 fumble return		

Indianapolis Colts

Indianapolis set new standards for ineptitude on the field last year. Had it not been for their seven touchdown "outburst" against the Jets and Lions, the Colts would have become the first NFL team to average only half a touchdown per game.

We watched as NFL history was made in 1991. Indianapolis shattered the record for fewest points ever in a 16-game season. The Colts finished with only 143 points — 38 points less than the next-worst ever total.

If Dean Biasucci hadn't connected on a 39-yard field goal in Indy's final game, the Colts would have averaged fewer points per game than the 1976 Tampa Bay Buccaneers, an 0-14 expansion team.

Washington Redskin kicker Chip Lohmiller outscored the entire Colt team by himself last year. Something along those lines hasn't happened since 1945.

Barry Sanders, with 17 touchdowns, got into the end zone three more times than Indianapolis did last year.

The Colts have big problems at running back and wide receiver, but their defense problems are bigger, so new coach Ted Marchibroda went after defensive players with the Colts' three high draft picks. The skill-position picks will come next year.

Marchibroda hopes a healthy offensive line will help correct most of the Colts' offensive woes. Last year, Indianapolis lost four offensive linemen in the first three games, and three of them never came back. The former Buffalo Bill offensive coordinator is also toying with using the no-huddle.

The Colts are obviously not playoff material, and it would be a near-miracle if they finished even average in scoring. They do play the NFL's easiest schedule, though, so they can't be completely discounted by fantasy coaches.

QUARTERBACK. Maybe Jim Irsay's not so dumb after all. Two years down the road, the Jeff George trade is looking okay. The Colts essentially gave up Andre Rison, Mike Pritchard and an eighth-year tackle. A steep price, but so far George looks like he's on his way to becoming a franchise quarterback.

George will stand in the pocket and throw strikes, even under a ferocious rush. He got plenty of chances to prove that. George, completing 60 percent of his passes last year even though he was sacked a league-high 56 times. If nothing else, give him credit just for being able to stay in one piece for the entire season.

Put a little protection in front of him and George will start winning games. Remember that as a rookie George led the Colts to wins over the Redskins, Jets and division-champ Bengals. "Jeff George is definitely the best of the young quarterbacks," Bill Polian, the general manager of the Bills said last season.

When the Colts were a bad — instead of awful — team in 1990, George put up the best fantasy numbers for a rookie quarterback since Dan Marino, throwing 16 touchdown passes in essentially 11 games. George was involved in at least one touchdown in each of the Colts final eight games, making him more valuable down the stretch than either Joe Montana or Jim Kelly.

The Colts' poor running game may end up being a boon to George's fantasy stats. They certainly aren't going to be powering the ball into the end zone on the ground often, so if the Colts score 25 touchdowns George will finish with about 20 TD strikes. Last year, he tossed 10 of the 13 total touchdowns generated by the Indy offense.

After the proven fantasy quarterbacks are off the board, George ranks among the best of what's left. In keeper leagues, he's a top 20 overall pick.

Another former Illinois quarterback, Jack Trudeau, is the backup and a couple other former Big Ten quarterbacks will battle for the No. 3 spot — Mark Herrmann and Plan B signing Tom Tupa. If the Colt line is as bad as it was last year, the Colts may need four quarterbacks.

▲ **Sacked 56 times, Jeff George was lucky to survive last year.**

RUNNING BACK. With Eric Dickerson gone to the Raiders, the situation at running back is up in the air. Albert Bentley, if healthy, is expected to be the starter on opening day, but he's coming off reconstructive knee surgery.

Bentley played only three quarters of one game last year before his injury. Reports are that Bentley is making steady progress in his recovery. If healthy, Bentley is an underrated all-purpose back who's averaged at least 4.0 yards per carry every year of his career. But you have to wonder if he'll ever be a 16-game starter again. Bentley will be 32 years old before the season starts and would be the league's oldest starting running back.

If Bentley isn't 100 percent, a couple of former Notre Dame fullbacks figure to battle for the job — Anthony Johnson and Rodney Culver.

Johnson caught 42 passes in nine games last year before being sidelined by an eye injury. However, he's been essentially a non-factor carrying the football during his two years with the team.

Fourth-rounder Rodney Culver is probably a more likely choice as the featured back if Bentley falters. However, the stocky 225-pounder wasn't even the best back on his college team. Sophomore Jerome Bettis was Notre Dame's top runner last year; while neither Culver nor Tony Brooks (fourth round, Philadelphia) distinguished himself.

The other Colt running backs available are sixth-rounder Maury Toy

of UCLA and Ken Clark and Tim Manoa, who were both left unprotected in Plan B.

Marchibroda will no doubt be watching a lot of videotape on college studs such as Russell White, Glyn Milburn and Errict Rhett, because the Colts 1993 starter isn't on the roster.

RECEIVER. Jerry Rice, Andre Rison, Mark Clayton and Michael Haynes each caught more TD passes on their own than the entire Colt team last year. That's a sign of how far Indianapolis needs to go before any of its receivers will be ready to produce consistently for fantasy franchises.

Wideouts Bill Brooks and Jessie Hester were the starters last year. They combined for 132 receptions and 90 percent of the team's 10 touchdowns through the air. Marchibroda also feels he got a receiver in Plan B who can help right away — former Brown Reggie Langhorne.

Hester was the only receiver in the NFL to catch half (five) his team's touchdown passes last year. He's quite a comeback story, having not even played in 1989 after catching 13 passes the previous two seasons. The former No. 1 has been reborn in Indianapolis, catching 114 passes in two years and leading the team in receiving TDs two straight years.

Brooks is a hard-working possession receiver who's never had an off year, but he doesn't score enough to excite fantasy coaches. Brooks has averaged 61 catches a year during his career but hasn't scored more than five touchdowns since his rookie year in 1986.

Hester and Brooks were nice darkhorse picks until the Colts were able to sign Langhorne. The reason the Browns let Langhorne go was that he feuded viciously with coach Bill Belichick. Langhorne will probably catch about as many balls as Hester or Brooks and could be a nice pickup for the Cleveland game on opening day.

In the Indianapolis offense for the past two years, most of the short passes have been directed to the running backs rather than to the tight ends. Last year Colt backs amassed 128 receptions, while the tight ends caught only 14 balls.

If Marchibroda decides to bring a pass-catching tight end into his offense, he'll probably chose between two guys who were the all-time leading receivers at their universities — Kerry Cash and Tim Bruton. They're both second-year players who didn't catch a pass last year.

KICKER. Dean Biasucci became the first full-time placekicker to go through a 16-game season without scoring 60 points last year. Besides kicking for the NFL's lowest-scoring team, Biasucci spent the entire year in a concentration slump, missing almost half of his field goal attempts.

1991 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

Passing	Att	Comp	Yards	Pct	TD	Int	'90 TD	'89 TD
George	485	292	2910	60.2	10	12	16	-
Colts	512	305	3066	59.6	10	16	22	18
Opp.	388	240	3002	61.9	22	15	20	15

Rushing	Att	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD	'90 TD	'89 TD
Dickerson	167	536	3.2	28	2	4	7
Clark	114	366	3.2	25	0	0	-
Colts	354	1169	3.3	44	3	9	11
Opp.	544	2327	4.3	t78	23	12	10

Receiving	No	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD	'90 TD	'89 TD
Brooks	72	888	12.3	46	4	5	4
Hester	60	753	12.6	t49	5	6	-
Johnson	42	344	8.2	24	0	2	-
Dickerson	41	269	6.6	26	1	0	1
Clark	33	245	7.4	23	0	0	-
Verdin	21	214	10.2	28	0	1	1
Colts	305	3066	10.1	t49	10	22	18
Opp.	240	3002	12.5	t84	22	20	15

Kicking	XP-A	FG-A	Lg	Pts	'90 Pts	'89 Pts
Biasucci	14/14	15/26	54	59	83	94
Opp.	46/46	17/23	48	97	131	125

The Colts know that Biasucci is capable of once again ranking among the best kickers in the league. He's usually accurate and has always had one of the strongest legs in the game. Biasucci has a string of four consecutive years with a field goal of at least 53 yards.

The Colts will look at other kickers in training camp, but Biasucci should be the man.

DEFENSE. Even if the Colt offense had been able to generate points last year, the team would have been a loser. Indianapolis allowed an NFL-high 2,327 yards rushing last year and gave up 47 touchdowns. Top draft choices Steve Emtman and Quentin Coryatt should provide immediate help, but it's a long road back to respectability.

Last year, the Colts were so bad against the run that no team even needed to throw against them. There were 40 fewer passes attempted against Indianapolis than any other team.

And needless to say, the Colts weren't big-time scorers on defensive and special teams plays. The only score all year came when Clarence Verdin returned a kickoff for a touchdown at New York.

	N.E. 7-16	at Mia. 6-17	at Rdrs. 0-16	Det. 24-33	at Sea. 3-31	Pitt. 3-21	at Buff. 6-42	Jets 6-17	Mia. 6-10	at Jets 28-27	Chi. 17-31	at G.B. 10-14	Clev. 0-31	at N.E. 17-23	Buff. 7-35	at T.B. 3-17
George	27-42-2-301 24	17-31-0-98	21-32-0-220	29-40-1-348 2,12	17-31-2-144	22-28-0-191	22-33-1-168	14-22-0-107	18-34-1-189	16-26-2-239 49,7,7	16-33-0-176 4,9	21-40-1-184 6	10-21-2-100	15-24-0-159 13	7-11-0-83	20-37-0-203
Dickerson	15-64	19-60	20-77	13-17 2 catch,2	13-42	13-24	hamstring Probable	hamstring Probable	17-63	suspended	suspended	suspended	16-117	30-53 1	-	11-19
Clark	-	-	-	-	-	8-14	19-44	7-40	0-0	20-50	11-67	19-51	5-23	1-1 (hip-P)	21-74 (hip-P)	3-2 (elbow-P)
A.Johnson (catch stats)	11-87	ankle Questnble	10-89	9-105	4-29	-	4-14 (ankle-P)	2-13	2-7	eye (IR) Out	eye (IR) Out	eye (IR) Out	eye (IR) Out	eye (IR) Out	eye (IR) Out	eye (IR) Out
Brooks	4-89 24	1-9	4-67	4-66	3-32	6-79	1-14	4-31	1-24	8-80 7	7-106 9	10-70 6	2-15	6-65	4-45	7-76
Hester	2-23	2-12	2-26	3-37 12	3-30	4-45	5-59	2-17	7-90	5-100 49,7	4-32 4	5-66	4-66	4-31 13	5-77	3-42
Biasucci	- miss:44,52,42,48	48,21 -	- miss: 37,47	20 -	54 -	19 miss: 54	26,29 -	42,34 miss: 49	47,25 miss: 45	- -	54 -	35 miss: 40	- -	40 miss: 43	- -	39 -
Others										Verdin 88 KO return					Manoa 1 run	

Kansas City Chiefs

Marty Schottenheimer must have nightmares about John Elway and the Broncos.

The Chiefs' coach is on his way to becoming a legend. After six years of turning two teams around, he has a higher winning percentage than Chuck Noll, Chuck Knox or Dan Reeves. So how come he can't handle Denver?

At Cleveland, Elway stopped Schottenheimer from reaching the Super Bowl twice — Elway's success in derailing him was, in essence, one of the big reasons Art Modell axed Schottenheimer in 1989. Now that Schottenheimer's in Kansas City, Elway keeps stopping the Chiefs from winning the AFC West.

Schottenheimer has a 1-10 lifetime record against the Broncos, with the only win coming in 1990 over a last-place Denver team mathematically eliminated from playoff contention. Last year, Elway's big plays helped Denver sweep K.C. and win the division title.

It may be a good thing Kansas City lost at Buffalo in the playoffs — for Schottenheimer, Elway and the entire country. That way, Schottenheimer didn't have to watch Elway pull off another AFC Championship miracle, and we all didn't have to watch Elway get mauled again in the Super Bowl.

The pre-Schottenheimer Chiefs, while perennial losers, were better against Elway, picking him off 20 times and allowing only five TD passes. Against the Schottenheimer Chiefs, Elway's record is 6-1, with five TDs and four interceptions.

Can this be the year Kansas City gets over the Denver hump? The Broncos won the division last year on the basis of a super-easy schedule. This time the teams are on equal footing — except that Denver has the Elway jinx.

QUARTERBACK. The Chiefs traded down five years at the quarterback position, signing 33-year-old Dave Krieg in Plan B and telling 38-year-old Steve DeBerg he was no longer needed.

Another shrewd move by the Chiefs. They avoided sending players or draft picks to San Francisco and give themselves another two years to solve their quarterback problem. "We think we signed the best Plan B quarterback available," General Manager Carl Peterson says.

Krieg hasn't put up eye-popping numbers with the Seahawks in recent years, but he's been playing on a team with no running game or offensive line. Look at his numbers last year and you'll see evidence that he's still a quality quarterback — and certainly superior to DeBerg.

Krieg completed a league-leading 65.5 percent of his passes last year and managed to throw 11 TD passes in his 10 starts. Let him work with the benefit of that pounding Chief running game and he'll look like the Krieg of the mid-eighties again. He averaged 24 touchdowns a year in Seattle when Curt Warner and John L. Williams were clicking.

If you don't think going to the Chiefs can pump life into a fading career, recall DeBerg. When the Chiefs picked him up, DeBerg had a lifetime TD-interception ratio of 116-139. A couple of seasons later, he's one of the big fantasy surprises of 1990 when he throws 23 touchdown passes and four interceptions. He handicapped himself in '91 with a holdout.

Krieg should have no problem beating out Mark Vlasic and throwing about 20 touchdown passes this year.

Second-rounder Matt Blundin will be groomed for the future — there's virtually no way he'll be on the field this season. This is a guy with one year of college experience. Schottenheimer must love that Blundin went his entire season at Virginia without throwing an interception.

RUNNING BACK. We've been hearing trade rumors out of Kansas City for years, but don't expect Barry Word, Christian Okoye or Harvey Williams to be going anywhere soon. The way these guys get hurt, it'd be too risky to let any one of them go.

▲ **Christian Okoye wasn't a factor in the final seven games.**

"Running back is one position where you get hit every play," Schottenheimer says. "You can't have enough good running backs."

Okoye led the way last year for the first 12 games with 957 punishing yards and nine TDs. Then, when Okoye sprained his knee, Word stepped in and was the second-leading rusher in the entire league for the final quarter of the season. In the playoffs he pounded the Raiders with 130 yards.

Williams, a rookie, was nicked throughout the season with various injuries but contributed 447 yards and five touchdowns. On many NFL teams, the 220-pound Williams would be a big back. On the Chiefs, he's the changeup pitch after defenses have been worn down by the 250-pounders.

Okoye led the backs with nine touchdowns last year, but Word's probably a better choice for fantasy coaches. Word led the team in rushing in 1990 but was slowed by a holdout last year. When he did take over, he displayed running abilities and instincts that Okoye just doesn't have.

If Eric Dickerson doesn't start in Los Angeles, Okoye could be the oldest starting running back in the league; he turns 31 in August. He also needs a new contract, which could keep him out of camp and make him a slow starter. The Nigerian Nightmare was benched the game before he got hurt last year after losing two fumbles inside the 3-yard line at Cleveland.

Williams gets about equal fantasy billing with Okoye. The Chiefs hope he can become a Thurman Thomas-type back, but Williams has an injury history dating well back into his college days. It's hard to envision him as a full-time guy.

Todd McNair was able to maintain his role as the third-down back. Blocker Bill Jones spends more time on the field than anyone.

RECEIVER. Tim Barnett could turn out to be the first solid fantasy receiver in Kansas City since Stephone Paige scored seven times in 1988. He turned in a spectacular rookie campaign, starting in the injured Paige's place and making big plays consistently all year long.

Barnett isn't a burner, but he's the only Chief wide receiver capable of challenging defenses after the catch. He led the team with five TDs and could be in for a breakthrough year.

Paige, who missed essentially the entire year with a knee injury, should be 100 percent by training camp. It seems like this former Fresno State teammate of Henry Ellard's has been around forever, but he's just 30 years old. Paige was one of only three AFC receivers to crack the 1,000-yard receiving mark in 1990 and — if healthy — should have no difficultly replacing Robb Thomas in the lineup.

The worry with Chief receivers is the diversification in Schottenheimer's offenses. We're talking about the J.J. Birdens, the Emile Harrys, etc. In each of the past two years, the Chiefs have had six different receivers catch between two and five TD passes. Schottenheimer's Browns never had a player catch 8 TD passes.

Tight end Jonathan Hayes operates as essentially an extra offensive tackle. He's been alternating between one and two touchdown catches for the past five years. He's due for a one touchdown season this year.

The Chiefs signed receiving tight end Mike Dyal from the Raiders, but that may have just been an attempt to get at a division rival. Last year Kansas City signed Pete Holohan and didn't do anything with him. Former Steeler Keith Cash is also available.

KICKER. Draft Nick Lowery onto your fantasy team and in future years you'll have the privilege of saying you employed a Hall of Famer. Lowery, without question, is the greatest placekicker in the history of the game. Better than Blanda. Better than Stenerud.

Even though he's 36, Lowery keeps *increasing* his all-time leading field goal percentage of 79.3 percent. He hit 34-of-37 in 1990 and ended up at 25-of-30 last year after missing three of his first six attempts.

The important number for fantasy coaches is, of course, points scored. Lowery gets plenty. He is the NFL's second-leading scorer over the last three years.

DEFENSE. Since Schottenheimer took over in 1989, the Chiefs have allowed the fewest points of any team in the AFC. The secondary was hampered by age and injuries last year, so General Manager Carl Peterson spent a first-round draft pic on safety/corner Dale Carter, an outstanding interception and kick returner.

1991 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

Passing	Att	Comp	Yards	Pct	TD	Int	'90 TD	'89 TD
DeBerg	434	256	2965	59.0	17	14	23	11
Vlasic	44	28	316	63.6	2	0	1	1
Chiefs	479	284	3281	59.3	19	14	23	14
Opp.	471	279	3532	59.2	17	15	16	16

Rushing	Att	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD	'90 TD	'89 TD
Okoye	225	1031	4.6	48	9	7	12
Word	160	684	4.3	37	4	4	-
Williams	97	447	4.6	21	1	-	-
Chiefs	521	2217	4.3	48	14	11	18
Opp.	417	1770	4.2	t60	8	12	9

Receiving	No	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD	'90 TD	'89 TD
Thomas	43	495	11.5	39	1	4	2
Barnett	41	564	13.8	63	5	-	-
McNair	37	342	9.2	36	1	2	1
Harry	35	431	12.3	36	3	2	2
Birden	27	465	17.2	t57	2	3	-
Hayes	19	208	10.9	23	2	1	2
Williams	16	147	9.2	17	2	-	-
Chiefs	284	3281	11.6	63	19	23	14
Opp.	279	3532	12.7	t71	17	16	16

Kicking	XP-A	FG-A	Lg	Pts	'90 Pts	'89 Pts
Lowery	35/35	25/30	48	110	139	106
Opp.	25/27	21/28	45	88	77	94

	Atl. 14-3	N.O. 10-17	at Hou. 7-17	Sea. 20-13	at S.D. 14-13	Buff. 33-6	Mia. 42-7	at Den. 16-19	Rdrs. 24-21	at Rams 27-20	Den. 20-24	at Clev. 15-20	at Sea. 19-7	S.D. 20-17	at S.F. 14-28	at Rdrs. 27-21
DeBerg	13-24-0-158 6	23-43-2-212 7	9-14-1-93	21-32-0-214 18,15	11-20-1-112 11	16-23-0-150 1	9-12-0-177 7,41,14	21-35-0-241	19-30-1-161 8,6	17-26-0-199 6	11-24-4-207	30-50-2-319 5	17-26-0-154 8	12-23-2-111	13-32-1-180 17	14-20-0-277 57,53
Vlasic	-	-	-	-	-	0-0-0-0	5-6-0-54	-	-	0-0-0-0	9-14-0-91 8	-	-	12-18-0-150 16	2-6-0-21 (starter)	knee Questnble
Okoye	22-143 4	11-27	17-75 2	16-79	19-65 1	29-130 5,2	23-153 38,1	15-35	17-62 1	15-96	17-83 7	13-33	3-26	knee Questnble	knee Questnble	8-32
Word	6-13	10-40	14-54	6-21	5-18	5-14	8-22	-	1-3	5-29 1	-	8-41	26-96	14-66 1	17-115 11	35-152 1
Williams	hamstring Probable	-	3-15	0-0 15 catch	1-4	20-103	11-37	14-84 14	12-53	7-42	10-39	knee Questnble	9-29	8-39 16 catch	2-2	eye doubtful
Barnett	1-13	-	2-31	5-39 18	-	2-16	3-65 7,41	6-78	5-45 6	3-34	2-71 8	3-28	4-49	4-44	1-51	-
R.Thomas	1-13	5-52	-	4-57	1-11 11	4-55	4-42	3-27	3-36	6-38	7-89	ankle Questnble	ankle Questnble	2-35	ankle Probable	3-40
Harry	1-6 6	2-15	2-18	2-19	1-12	-	ankle Questnble	-	-	-	2-28	11-159 5	6-51	5-73	4-64 17	-
Lowery	- miss: 51	23 -	- -	37,39 miss: 51	- miss: 44	41,44,24,22 -	- -	32,48,25 -	33 -	20,44 -	19,27 -	34,22 -	20,28,36,39 -	29,18 -	- -	33,25 miss: 43,45
Others		Hayes 7 catch				Holohan 1 catch	100 fumb return McNair 14 catch		B.Jones 8 catch	23 fumb return Hayes 6 catch		safety	Holohan 8 catch			Birden 57 & 53 catches

Los Angeles Raiders

What a difference one Heisman Trophy winner can make.

Without Bo Jackson, Los Angeles didn't know offense. The Raiders averaged 23 points per game in games when Jackson played in 1990. In the 18 games since Jackson's career-ending hip injury, the wheels have fallen off the Raider running attack, and the team has averaged just 17 points a game.

The AFC West champion Raiders were on a six-game winning streak when Jackson got hurt. Since then, they've won nine and lost nine, including the playoff losses at Buffalo and Kansas City.

That's what happens when you lose a guy who averages 5.6 yards per carry and can score from anywhere on the field.

The Raiders may miss Jackson more than ever this year. They play the second-hardest schedule in the AFC, including games at Philadelphia and Washington.

QUARTERBACK. That Al Davis considered sending Tim Brown and first- and second-round draft picks to San Francisco for Steve Young speaks volumes about the Raiders' situation at quarterback. Jay Schroeder hasn't gotten the job done, and there are serious question marks surrounding Todd Marinovich.

Schroeder has been starting for LA since 1988. In four years, including playoff games, he has thrown 55 touchdown passes and 57 interceptions — hardly the kind of numbers Davis envisioned when he decided to trade for Schroeder and gave up Jim Lachey. The massive tackle has become an All-Pro.

Schroeder threw for 4,102 yards and 22 touchdowns for Washington in 1986, but he won't be putting up those kind of numbers again. After watching Schroeder struggle for years, the Raiders have scaled down his responsibilities. Schroeder has attempted the fewest passes in the NFL in each of the last two years. Most quarterbacks put the ball in the air 31 times a game; Schroeder averages 22 attempts.

Averaging just 14 TD passes per year since 1988, the former UCLA Bruin loses more games than he wins when he drops back to pass. In 1991, Schroeder threw an end zone interception in the last two minutes at Atlanta, started Kansas City's 14-point comeback win with an errant toss, and was picked off to set up the deciding field goal in overtime against Buffalo.

He just hasn't been a winner. Now that he's 31 years old, you wonder how long he can retain his starting job.

Marinovich sparkled in his pro debut the final week of the season against Kansas City, throwing three scoring passes. He was intercepted four times the next week in the playoffs (although two were drops by receivers) but the biggest doubts about Marinovich are off the field.

ESPN reported in April that Marinovich failed a drug test. The NFL and Raiders didn't deny the charges, only responding that they wouldn't comment. If the report is true, Marinovich would be suspended four games for his next violation and any further violations would result in a suspension of at least a year.

Perhaps most importantly, if the ESPN report is true, the Raiders will be more hesistant to switch from Schroeder to Marinovich.

RUNNING BACK. Art Shell prefers a rotational system with his running backs, so the Raiders probably won't have any franchise-type performers for fantasy teams.

Last year, five different running backs combined to score Los Angeles' eight rushing touchdowns, and there were no 100-yard rushers until Nick Bell gained 107 yards on 20 carries in the playoff loss at Kansas City. In the regular season, LA had a running back gain 60 or more yards in only two games.

The team gave up fourth- and eighth-round draft picks for Eric Dickerson — yet another aging vet who'll see part-time duty. When either Dickerson or 32-year-old Marcus Allen begins the game, the Raiders have the oldest starting running back in the league.

▲ **Nick Bell, if healthy, could ring up some touchdowns.**

Allen and Dickerson sit ninth and 10th on the NFL's all-time scoring charts, with 95 and 93 touchdowns, respectively. (Steve Largent has 101 touchdowns, Franco Harris 100, and Jerry Rice 97.) If Allen were to head into the final week with 99 TDs, he might be a good player to pick up and start for a fantasy franchise.

Bell is probably the best fantasy choice. At 250 pounds, Bell was a handful for defenses at times during his rookie season and scored a team-high three rushing TDs. He was out for more than half the season after pulling a hamstring in preseason and cracking a rib in the loss at Kansas City.

Allen also missed half the year after tweaking his knee in the opener. He averaged a team-high 4.6 yards per carry on the year but had only 287 yards rushing. And he's no longer utilized as a receiver.

Dickerson took a reported $1.3 million pay cut as part of his trade from Indianapolis. "This late in my career, I just want to play football and have a chance to win," he said on draft day. Dickerson's rushing average has declined in each of the past four seasons. One NFL personnel chief told *Don Heinrich's Pro Preview* that his skills have eroded to the point where he's the 37th best back in the league.

Dickerson was a pouter during his last in Indianapolis. He may have a better attitude now that he's wearing Silver and Black, but that doesn't mean he'll be anything more than a part-time player. He's certainly not going to step in and score all of the team's short-yardage

rushing touchdowns. Bell's probably a better fantasy choice.

Fullback Steve Smith will be on the field for more plays than any other back but is used sparingly as a ball carrier. Unprotected Roger Craig signed with Minnesota.

RECEIVER. The Raiders' best wide receiver doesn't even start. Tim Brown scored five of his six touchdowns in the final seven games. He also gave himself some ammunition for contract talks by leading the AFC with five catches in the Pro Bowl — the day after his contract expired.

One of the demands Brown should bring to the bargaining table is that he be guaranteed a starting position, although it's not something he should have to ask for. Veterans Mervyn Fernandez and Willie Gault were terrible last year, combining for a total of 19 catches the final half of the season.

They both come with off-the-field baggage as well. Gault is still enamored with the idea of competing in the Olympics; he was running on the indoor track circuit in the offseason. Fernandez spent the offseason battling a misdemeanor charge of indecent exposure. They were also among the six oldest starting wide receivers in the league last year.

While Fernandez and Gault's productive days as fantasy players seem over, Brown is on the rise. Now completely recovered from the knee injury that limited him to a combined 19 catches in 1989 and 1990, Brown displayed the soft hands and afterburner speed that helped him win the Heisman Trophy in 1987. Brown's highlight plays last year included a 75-yard punt return against Cincinnati and a 78-yard catch-and-run against Buffalo.

The Raiders are well-stocked at tight end, where Ethan Horton and rookie Andrew Glover combined for eight touchdowns. Horton has scored eight touchdowns in his last 22 games and was the only tight end in the league last year to have two receptions of more than 50 yards.

Three of Glover's five receptions as a rookie went for touchdowns. And he's only going to get better. The 6-foot-6 behemoth played only one year of college football at Grambling — he was on the basketball team for three years.

KICKER. All-Pro Jeff Jaeger was the best kicker in the league last year, hitting 29 of 34 field goals, including four game winners. Two of his misses were from beyond 50 yards.

1991 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

Passing	Att	Comp	Yards	Pct	TD	Int	'90 TD	'89 TD
Schroeder	357	189	2562	52.9	15	16	19	8
Raiders	414	220	2977	53.1	20	18	19	21
Opp.	513	295	3559	57.5	18	18	20	18
Rushing	**Att**	**Yards**	**Avg**	**Lg**	**TD**	**'90 TD**	**'89 TD**	
Craig	162	590	3.6	15	1	1	6	
Bell	78	307	3.9	15	3	-	-	
Allen	63	287	4.6	26	2	13	2	
Raiders	446	1706	3.8	26	8	20	9	
Opp.	447	1889	4.2	t39	13	4	15	
Receiving	**No**	**Yards**	**Avg**	**Lg**	**TD**	**'90 TD**	**'89 TD**	
Horton	53	650	12.3	52	5	3	1	
Fernandez	46	694	15.1	59	1	5	9	
Brown	36	554	15.4	t78	5	3	0	
Gault	20	346	17.3	t59	4	3	4	
Raiders	220	2977	13.5	t80	20	19	21	
Opp.	295	3559	12.1	t57	18	20	18	
Kicking	**XP-A**	**FG-A**	**Lg**	**Pts**	**'90 Pts**	**'89 Pts**		
Jaeger	29/30	29/34	53	116	110	103		
Opp.	33/36	16/28	47	81	112	81		

Don't be surprised if he fails to score 116 points again this year, however. Jaeger was one of the least accurate kickers in the league prior to last season and finished 18th in scoring in 1990.

DEFENSE. The deficiencies in the Raider defense were made painfully apparent in the back-to-back losses to Kansas City to close the year. Barry Word rushed 68 times for 282 yards in the two games, and the Chiefs only had to punt twice. With an eye towards Kansas City's and San Diego's big running backs, the Raiders used their first-round draft pick on 330-pound tackle Chester McGlockton of Clemson.

Al Davis also tried to get help in Plan B by signing former first-round linebackers Aundray Bruce and Anthony Bell. If they were great players, however, they wouldn't have been left unprotected.

As scorers, the Raider defense and special teams are below average, scoring in only one of the team's last 31 games. Toast Patterson returned a fumble 3 yards for a touchdown and Tim Brown scored on a punt return at Cincinnati.

	at Hou. 17-47	Den. 16-13	Ind. 16-0	at Atl. 17-21	S.F. 12-6	S.D. 13-21	at Sea. 23-20	Rams 20-17	at K.C. 21-24	at Den. 17-16	Sea. 31-7	at Cin. 38-14	at S.D. 9-7	Buff. 27-30	at N.O. 0-27	K.C. 21-27
Schroeder	8-21-1-117 59	12-19-0-168 16	13-22-0-181 16	10-32-2-116 4,5	14-25-0-144	15-23-2-184 11	28-52-2-274 8,12	15-26-1-271 9	12-26-3-250 37	12-19-0-140 23	16-19-0-237 4,1,51	4-10-0-30	12-28-3-122	11-21-2-252 78	7-14-0-76	ankles Questnble
N.Bell	(IR) Out	(IR) Out	(IR) Out	(IR) Out	7-31	8-26	16-75	15-54 1	2-1 1	broken rib, Out	IR Out	IR Out	10-58	15-36 12	5-26	-
Craig	3-9	27-99	19-57	14-24	13-44 (shldr-P)	7-39	4-14	5-25	17-59	12-58	12-29	10-51 5	8-36	9-38	2-8	-
Allen	8-17	knee (IR) Out	knee (IR) Out	knee (IR) Out	knee (IR) Out	knee (IR) Out	knee (IR) out	knee (IR) out	knee (IR) out	4-15 11 throw	9-54	3-19 3	9-45	16-57 1	5-25	9-55
Brown	1-13	1-9	2-27	2-35	1-12	4-41	6-72 12	1-45	1-6	3-33 23	1-9	1-7 75 punt ret.	4-54	2-106 78	2-17	4-68 26,23
Fernandez	1-7	3-56	7-90 16	3-57	3-26	4-43	9-96	3-35	3-107	1-27	1-19	2-14	1-3	2-75	-	3-39
Gault	2-73 59	3-69 16	1-26	-	3-38	1-24	1-5	3-41 9	1-5	-	2-18 4	-	1-20	1-6	1-21	-
Horton	-	3-27	-	3-19 5	1-10	3-42 11	9-79 8	4-93	4-75	4-34	7-123 51	-	2-16	2-29	1-14	10-89 7
Jaeger	39 -	29,23,34 miss: 32	33,41,33 -	49 -	44,20,49,41 -	39,34 -	47,49,37 miss: 56	35,34 miss: 32	18,22 miss: XP	20 miss: 36	51 -	28 -	37,19,53 -	19,28 -	- miss: 52	- -
Others	Graddy 80 from Evans			Glover 4 catch					Smith 37 catch	Glover 11 catch	McCallum 1 run	3 fumb ret; Smith 1 run				Marinovich 26,7,23 pass

Los Angeles Rams

Chuck Knox has seen plenty of bad football teams in his 19 years as an NFL head coach, so he knew what he was getting into when he signed a four-year $2.9 million contract to resurrect the Rams.

He certainly isn't planning on waltzing to five straight NFC West crowns, as he did the last time he was the coach in Los Angeles.

"Certainly we've got a big challenge to do here with the Rams," says the veteran coach in his Knoxian terminology. "We need help from a talent standpoint."

Knox's first moves didn't do anything to convince fantasy coaches the Rams will move the ball and score more effectively this season. He signed only four players in Plan B — all former Seahawks — and concentrated on defense in the draft.

It makes you wonder how the Rams are going to score their points. The Los Angeles offense produced half as many touchdowns last year (24) as it did in 1989 (48). And the schedule is the toughest in the division.

Many Ram fans didn't like Knox even when he was churning out division titles. It will be interesting to see how he's received when the Rams go 5-11 or 6-10. The early signals weren't positive. "As exciting as going to Baskin-Robbins and ordering vanilla ice cream," read one letter in the *Los Angeles Times*.

QUARTERBACK. Maybe Jim Everett sold his soul to the devil for two years of NFL stardom. How else can you explain his dramatic fall from grace since 1989?

The No. 3 pick of the 1986 draft looked like the NFL's next great quarterback when he emerged in just his second year as a starter to throw 31 touchdown strikes. He led the league again in 1989 with 29 scoring throws and rifled four more big TD passes in playoff wins at Philadelphia and New York. Remember Flipper Anderson catching the overtime touchdown to beat the Giants and running straight into the locker room?

Everett hasn't been the same since. He has just 20 touchdown passes in his last 26 starts. After ranking among the top five quarterbacks in fantasy football for three years, his rating slipped to 22nd last year.

Mike Tomczak and Steve Bono, while playing less than half a season each, threw as many touchdown passes (11) as Everett last year.

One of Knox's early personnel decisions was to not tamper with the existing offense. Ted Tollner has been brought in to tutor Everett, but Ernie Zampese has been retained as the offensive coordinator. They'll try to revive Everett by giving him better field position and fine-tuning the offense.

Most fantasy leagues award bonus points for long touchdown passes. In this category, Everett has gone from first to worst. In 1989, he was the league's premier deep-ball artist, with seven TD throws from 40-plus yards. Last year, he was the only NFL regular who didn't toss a single touchdown pass of at least 20 yards.

He doesn't help his fantasy stock with running touchdowns either. The lanky Everett averaged 3 yards rushing per game last year. On the flip side, that helps make him one of the healthiest quarterbacks in the game. He's started every game for four straight years.

Ten-year vet Mike Pagel is the backup.

RUNNING BACK. The biggest fumble of the year for fantasy coaches came when Cleveland Gary dropped the ball — and maybe his career — on his third rushing attempt of the season. It was only one of seven turnovers by the Rams during a shocking opening-day loss to the Cardinals, but it was the biggest.

Coach John Robinson cited Gary's 12 fumbles in 1990 as a big reason the Rams finished 5-11, so he banished his starting tailback to the bench for the entire season. Pretty harsh punishment.

Robinson made Robert Delpino his starter, and the 205-pound receiver back responded by becoming the 11th straight Ram tailback (seven different players) to score at least 10 times in a season. Delpino's not a true tailback, however, and it's hard to see him being a big scorer again this season — unless Knox employs him in goal-line situations because of his outstanding leaping ability.

▲ **Henry Ellard has led L.A. in receiving eight straight years.**

Delpino, after outstanding games for two weeks, just didn't get it done. He averaged 2.9 yards per carry the rest of the way. All 10 of his scores came in the season's first nine games.

Look for Delpino to return to his role as the third-down back, where his carries can be limited, and he can catch 50 to 60 passes. Delpino was the only back besides Thurman Thomas to have two 100-yard receiving days last season.

By the process of elimination, that brings the tailback job back to Gary, unless the Rams make a move for Herschel Walker. Gary ran for 808 yards and averaged 4.0 yards per carry in 1990. The 226-pounder also enters the final year of his contract. If that's not incentive to hang on to the football, what is?

The new Ram staff showed what they think of Marcus Dupree when they protected youngsters Ernie Thompson (Anthony Thompson's little brother) and David Lang and left the former Oklahoma star unprotected. Veteran fullback Buford McGee was also left unprotected. Neither drew interest from other clubs.

Some fantasy coaches will take a wild flier on Derek Loville, who played for Knox in Seattle. That would be a mistake — he's actually

being brought in for his steady play on special teams.

RECEIVER. Only 42 percent of the Ram pass attempts were directed to the wide receivers, the lowest ratio in the league outside of Pittsburgh, where Joe Walton was trying to install that crazy tight end offense.

Two years after Jim Everett led the NFL in touchdown passes, the Rams' wideouts finished last in the league in touchdowns scored with a paltry five. Los Angeles was one of four NFL teams that didn't have a wide receiver score four touchdowns.

One of the reasons the Ram wideouts played a diminished role was Willie Anderson's broken back. Combine Anderson's injury with his slow start and he was essentially missing for half the season. He did play the second half of the season at close to 1,000-yard pace, although he scored just once.

The pass offense would have been in intensive care if Henry Ellard hadn't contributed another outstanding year. The 31-year-old led the Rams in receiving for the eighth straight year and had his fourth straight 1,000-yard season.

Ellard doesn't have super stopwatch speed, but he has still been able to average at least 16.4 per catch for the last four years. Considering that he scored 18 touchdowns during the 1988-89 seasons, he's a dangerous wideout for fantasy coaches to ignore on draft day.

If the Rams can get their passing game in gear, Ellard and Anderson's value is increased by the lack of depth at receiver. Aaron Cox has all-but proven to be a first-round ('88) bust, Vernon Turner is inexperienced, and Jeff Chadwick (Plan B, Seattle) probably couldn't make most NFL rosters. The Rams took Louisiana State's Todd Kinchen in the third round.

The Rams had a league-high portion of their receiving touchdowns (46 percent) go to tight ends. Damone Johnson, H-back Jim Price and blocker Pat Carter each caught two TDs, and Johnson and Price were among the league's top 10 pass catchers at the position. All three were protected.

But if Knox gets his hands into the offense at all, the involvement of the tight ends will be cut in half and the pass-catching H-back position will be eliminated. The Seahawks scored two tight end touchdowns in three years prior to last season.

KICKER. Tony Zendejas was almost perfect last year, becoming the first kicker to hit all his field goal attempts (17) in a season, but missing one extra point. Don't mistake Zendejas for a Stoyanovich or a Jaeger, however. Only five of his field goals were from outside 37 yards.

The important stat for fantasy scouts is field goals attempted — the Rams were last in the NFL. Zendejas won't be a factor in fantasy leagues this year.

DEFENSE. Chuck Knox has a way of making bad defenses look respectable, but it's hard to see how he'll pull that off in LA. The Rams' defensive line, with seven sacks last year, is the worst in the league. The linebackers aren't great either.

LA was last in the league in both sacks and takeaways last year. With no pressure on the quarterback, the secondary was picked apart. We're talking 79 passing touchdowns allowed the last three years, the most in the NFL. Go to work, Chuck.

1991 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

Passing	Att	Comp	Yards	Pct	TD	Int	'90 TD	'89 TD
Everett	490	277	3438	56.5	11	20	23	29
Rams	518	289	3610	55.8	13	20	24	29
Opp.	434	259	3657	59.7	25	11	30	24

Rushing	Att	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD	'90 TD	'89 TD
Delpino	214	688	3.2	36	9	0	1
Gary	68	245	3.6	14	1	14	1
Dupree	49	179	3.7	24	1	0	-
Rams	388	1285	3.3	36	11	17	19
Opp.	469	1659	3.5	26	19	17	13

Receiving	No	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD	'90 TD	'89 TD
Ellard	64	1052	16.4	38	3	4	8
Delpino	55	617	11.2	78	1	4	1
Price	35	410	11.7	27	2	0	-
Anderson	32	530	16.6	54	1	4	5
Johnson	32	253	7.9	27	2	3	5
McGee	20	160	8.0	20	0	4	4
Rams	289	3610	12.5	78	13	24	29
Opp.	259	3657	14.1	78	25	30	24

Kicking	XP-A	FG-A	Lg	Pts	'90 Pts	'89 Pts
Zendejas	25/26	17/17	50	76	41	115
Opp.	46/47	20/28	47	106	118	114

	Phoe. 14-24	at Gnts. 19-13	at N.O. 7-24	at S.F. 10-27	G.B. 23-21	S.D. 30-24	at Rdrs. 17-20	at Atl. 14-31	N.O. 17-24	K.C. 20-27	at Det. 10-21	S.F. 10-33	Wash. 6-27	Atl. 14-31	at Minn. 14-20	at Sea. 9-20
Everett	25-35-2-290	7-16-0-83	6-17-1-71	17-35-1-219	18-29-1-241	19-25-0-219 12,18	22-35-2-300 4,19	9-27-1-92	18-31-3-346 15	26-37-1-329 1,14,17	26-45-1-308 19	20-32-0-249	19-40-0-201	7-16-1-109 6	26-43-4-263 8	12-27-2-118
Delpino	15-81 1,1	27-116 1	19-67	9-5 1	13-24 2	17-50 1,1	14-27 4 catch	8-56 9	20-50 2	20-81	14-19	6-3	12-32	9-37	8-31	3-9
Gary	4-11	5-25	-	6-23	8-32	4-7	5-23	1-3	knee Questnble	knee Questnble	knee Questnble	knee Questnble	-	8-20	11-29 1	16-72
Ellard	7-116	1-6	1-19	5-85	4-60	2-44	6-95	3-46	4-71	8-160 14	5-84 19	4-67	4-53	2-31	5-72 8	3-43
Anderson	1-18	1-15	-	2-28	back Out	back Out	back Out	back Out	4-91 15	2-21	4-71	4-53	4-47	3-83	7-103	-
Price	1-5	1-14	-	2-32	1-6	6-82 12,18	3-36	2-13	5-67	4-39	5-53	5-63	-	-	-	-
D.Johnson	2-17	1-18	4-20	3-22	2-22	3-17	3-18	-	1-6	5-37 1,7	3-16	2-31	2-24	-	1-5	-
Zendejas	- -	29,50,32,33 -	- -	22 -	30,32,28 -	- -	37 -	- -	31 -	- miss: XP	27 -	37 -	41,34 -	- -	- -	44,46,50 -
Others			59 int return		17 fumble return	safety	Turner 19 catch	Carter 18 pass from Pagel				Dupree 1 run		Carter 6 catch Thompson 13 from Pagel		

Miami Dolphins

No team in the league last year was hit harder by holdouts than Miami. That's one of the big reasons the Dolphins missed the playoffs and saw their record drop from 12-4 to 8-8.

Don Shula came to camp with grand plans. He wanted to have Dan Marino operate a four-receiver no-huddle offense, with rookie Randal Hill as one of the outside speed receivers. It's too bad Hill and three other offensive starters never showed up.

Two other starters got hurt in preseason and weren't ready to go when the season started — that's half the offense. Hill was traded to Phoenix and Shula never got to see the no-huddle in action.

Thanks to the holdouts, the Dolphins started slow, losing three of their first five games. Miami finished with only an 8-8 record even though they played the third easiest schedule in the league.

Though this year's schedule is moderately more difficult, if the Dolphins can get everyone signed this time, they'll be back in the playoffs.

QUARTERBACK. Perhaps Dan Marino paid attention to some fan mail from fantasy coaches complaining about his 1990 stats. The Dolphin quarterback rebounded from his worst fantasy year and put up some memory-evoking numbers down the stretch.

Marino threw 17 touchdown passes in the final eight games last year, his hottest streak since 1986, when he tossed an unbelievable 44 TD strikes. In 1990, Marino lofted only 21 scoring passes as the Dolphins tried establishing a running game.

Which Marino will we see this year? If Shula has his way, the Dolphins will go back to the conservative style of football that won 12 games in 1990. It's hard to visualize them duplicating that feat, however, because the Dolphin defense and running attack aren't good enough to win smash-mouth games.

Twenty six of Miami's 34 offensive touchdowns came through the air last year. Of the four touchdowns scored from inside the 3-yard line, three came on pass plays. Those would be running touchdowns on most teams.

Marino is as safe a bet at quarterback as anyone in the league. He's thrown at least 20 TD passes nine straight years, breaking Johnny Unitas' record. Marino is also the most durable quarterback in the history of the game, having started 124 straight games.

Perhaps the biggest concern with the Magic Man is that his two receivers are getting long in the tooth — the Marks Brothers are a combined 64 years old. But the depth of the receiving corps was given a boost when Plan B free agent Robert Clark signed a three-year deal.

In the battle of the Scotts, Mitchell has edged past Secules to win the backup quarterback position. Mitchell was making noise with some nice stats for the Orlando Thunder in the World League.

RUNNING BACK. Mark Higgs beat out Sammie Smith last year and came within 95 yards of being the first Dolphin running back to crack 1,000 yards since 1978. But now he's threatening to hold out.

Holdouts are usually no big deal in May, but in recent years at Miami they've had a way a dragging into August. Higgs, who doesn't have a contract, skipped the Dolphins' spring minicamps. If the thrifty Dolphins don't get him into camp, the injury-prone Smith will at least start the season. Shula said at the end of the season that he'd have the two backs battle for the starting spot in training camp.

Higgs, a 5-foot-7 Plan B pickup from Philadelphia, proved to be a decent little back last year. He gained his 905 yards (four touchdowns) despite sitting on the pine for essentially six games while Smith was losing three fumbles inside opponents' 5-yard lines.

Higgs cracked the century mark three times, including a 146-yard effort at Buffalo. Not to be forgotten is that Miami's offensive line was riddled with holdouts and injuries last year. The Dolphins scored 13 rushing touchdowns in 1990; eight last year.

▲ **Tiny Mark Higgs was a big surprise, rushing for 905 yards.**

The Dolphins aren't completely sold on Higgs, though. A couple of weeks before the draft, they reportedly offered a third-round draft pick and Smith to Denver in exchange for Bobby Humphrey. The Broncos weren't interested.

Smith is almost as unhappy in Miami as Humphrey is in Denver. He was jeered by fans after his goal-line fumble lost the Houston game. The Dolphins would like to trade him, but who would take him? "You're talking about a one-dimensional back who isn't going to be a Thurman Thomas, who isn't going to break anything for 50 yards, and who's got a real problem (fumbling)," an AFC talent guy told the *Miami Herald*.

The Dolphins also struck out in their most recent attempt at finding a high-profile back in the draft. Third-rounder Aaron Craver failed to develop into even a third-down back. He finished with eight receptions and 58 yards rushing.

Veteran fullback Tony Paige is a non-scoring pass-catcher-blocker type. He's been a solid contributor since being picked up from Detroit in Plan B in 1990. He needs a new contract, however, and if he holds out, he could be pushed by free agent James Saxon, a former starter in Kansas City.

RECEIVER. The Marks Brothers, Duper and Clayton, stayed healthy and combined for 140 catches last year — their most productive year since 1984. They're now the third and sixth oldest starting wideouts in the league, however, so a falloff in production by at least one of them

is almost inevitable.

Clayton, after an injury-plagued '90 season, was spectacular. He led the AFC with 12 touchdown receptions, including five in the crunch-time final three weeks when fantasy teams were battling in their playoff games.

Clayton is Marino's favorite end-zone target. He has scored at least seven touchdowns every year since 1986 except for the injury-filled 1990 season. That year, by no coincidence, was also Marino's worst fantasy season.

Duper matched Clayton catch for catch with 70 receptions and also had 32 more receiving yards. His reluctance to go over the middle, however, makes him less of an end-zone weapon. The 33-year-old Duper hasn't scored more than five touchdowns since 1987, although his reception total has increased in each of the past four years.

Miami got some quality help, should either of the Marks Brothers go down, by signing unprotected free agent Robert Clark from Detroit. Clark, who's only 26, has led the Lions in receiving the past two years and scored 14 touchdowns. Scott Miller should be able to move past inconsistent Tony Martin in the wideout pecking order.

Tight end Ferrell Edmunds has never developed into a consistent scorer. Last year a holdout and thigh injury limited him to six starts, and he caught fewer than 30 passes (11) for the first time in his career. Considering the high percentage of touchdowns Miami scores through the air, however, the former third-rounder out of Maryland is always a threat to score six or seven touchdowns. Don't expect much out of the other tight end, Greg Baty, even though he caught more balls than Edmunds last year.

KICKER. The eighth round has been pretty good to the Dolphins. In 1983 Miami got Louisville wideout Mark Clayton. He's broken team receiving records. In 1989 they took Indiana placekicker Pete Stoyanovich. He has the look of a guy who's going to break NFL kicking records.

We've been hearing for the last six years about Nick Lowery, Morten Andersen and Gary Anderson's ongoing battle to be the NFL's all-time field goal accuracy leader. As soon as Stoyanovich kicks 29 more field goals to get the minimum 100 field goals for consideration, the old guard will be taking a back seat. Going into the season, Stoyanovich has hit 71 of 88 attempts; his career percentage (80.7) is 3 percent better than the combined average of the current leaders.

Stoyanovich's success for fantasy teams depends on how many attempts he's provided by the Dolphin offense. Miami was 22nd in field goal attempts in '89-'90, and Stoyanovich was an average scorer. Last year Miami's attempts total was third and Stoyanovich responded with a team-record 121 points even though he missed the first two games.

DEFENSE. The Dolphins haven't been able to stop the run since the days of the Killer B's defense, and that's what kept them out of the playoffs last year. Needing only a win in either of their final two games, Miami was hammered for 429 rushing yards in losses to the Chargers and Jets.

Miami gave up an NFL-high 4.6 yards per carry and allowed only 26 fewer rushing yards than the 1-15 Colts. The pass coverage wasn't anything special either. With mouthy Tim McKyer gone, Miami's cornerbacks combined for one interception on the year.

Shula protected only 15 defensive players and went defense-heavy in the draft, but that shouldn't scare fantasy coaches from starting players against Miami.

1991 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

Passing	Att	Comp	Yards	Pct	TD	Int	'90 TD	'89 TD
Marino	549	318	3970	57.9	25	13	21	24
Dolphins	563	327	4077	58.1	26	14	21	26
Opp.	485	300	3353	61.9	18	12	14	21

Rushing	Att	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD	'90 TD	'89 TD
Higgs	231	905	3.9	24	4	0	0
Smith	83	297	3.6	18	1	8	6
Dolphins	379	1352	3.6	24	8	13	10
Opp.	499	2301	4.6	t63	17	11	19

Receiving	No	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD	'90 TD	'89 TD
Duper	70	1085	15.5	t43	5	5	1
Clayton	70	1053	15.0	t43	12	3	9
Paige	57	469	8.2	26	1	4	0
Martin	27	434	16.1	54	2	2	0
Jensen	21	183	8.7	19	2	1	6
Baty	20	269	13.5	30	1	0	-
Dolphins	327	4077	12.5	54	26	21	26
Opp.	300	3353	11.2	t54	18	14	21

Kicking	XP-A	FG-A	Lg	Pts	'90 Pts	'89 Pts
Stoyanovich	28/29	31/37	53	121	100	95
Dolphins	34/35	33/39	53	133	100	95
Opp.	40/40	23/33	50	109	86	117

	at Buff. 31-35	Ind. 17-6	at Det. 13-17	G.B. 16-13	at Jets 23-41	at N.E. 20-10	at K.C. 7-42	Hou. 13-17	at Ind. 10-6	N.E. 30-20	Buff. 27-41	at Chi. 16-13	T.B. 33-14	Cin. 37-13	at S.D. 30-38	Jets 20-23
Marino	17-28-0-267 43,5,3	14-25-1-147 9	16-34-0-174	19-32-1-212	17-34-1-245 30	25-31-0-331 24,5	15-29-0-216	19-40-3-229 19	21-37-0-231 12	19-29-1-263 31,5,32	23-42-2-326 1,8	16-30-2-183 2	20-32-0-307 6,26	24-33-0-281 43,18,16	27-42-1-313 10 run,10,8,9	27-45-1-282 18,1
Higgs	30-146 3	27-111	19-71 4	18-43	11-40	17-48	5-38	5-13	8-24	-	-	13-52	25-131 19	21-88 3	17-63	13-37
Smith	knee (IR) Out	knee (IR) Out	knee (IR) Out	knee (IR) Out	1-(-6)	2-5	8-17	10-40	14-49	18-66	14-64 1	6-24	7-31	2-3	shoulder Probable	1-4
Clayton	6-138 43,5	1-8	4-56	4-39	7-100 10	6-87 24	3-41	2-33 19	3-30	3-73 31,32	6-90	6-92	2-53	6-69 18,16	4-50 10,8	7-94 18
Duper	5-67 3	2-27	3-36	4-80	4-58 30	3-56	5-58	4-79	3-64 12	3-56	5-96	2-34	5-47 6	7-134 43	9-123	7-87
Edmunds	-	1-9	2-12	thigh doubtful	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-2 2	3-47	-	2-25	2-23 1
Stoyanovich	**holdout**	**holdout**	18,47 -	43,52,31 -	33,53,33 -	47,25 miss: 58	- -	34,46 -	35 miss: 37,45	21,42,44 miss: 49	33,28 -	35,22,27 -	41,24,19,30 -	50,22,36 -	-34 miss: XP	23,33 miss: 53,41
Others	Baumann 21 FG	Jensen 9 catch Baumann FG; Craver 7 run		fumble rec in end zone	Secules 10 throw	Jensen 5 catch	Secules 4 run			Banks 5 catch	Martin 8 catch Baty 1 catch		Martin 26 catch		Paige 9 catch	

Minnesota Vikings

The Minnesota Vikings, the dynasty of the '80s that never was, have gotten old in a hurry.

On the day the season ended, Minnesota's roster contained 19 players in their thirties — including 14 starters. This is the NFL's oldest team, and all that experience amounted to only an 8-8 record last year, with half the wins coming against Tampa Bay and Phoenix.

And it's tough to rebuild when you've already traded away your first- second- and third-round draft choices in the Herschel Walker swindle.

Clearly, new coach Dennis Green has his work cut out for him.

At least the schedule is only moderately difficult. But last year's schedule tied for the easiest in the NFC, and it didn't make any difference. The Vikings have the look of a team that's going to be bad for a long time.

QUARTERBACK. When a below-average quarterback can also run the ball in for touchdowns, he's capable of elevating himself to a decent fantasy backup. Such is the case with Rich Gannon, the 1987 fourth-rounder who's toiled behind Tommy Kramer and Wade Wilson thus far in his career.

Gannon hit on a conservative 59.6 percent of his passes and threw a mild 12 touchdown passes in 11 starts last year. It was when he tucked the ball under his arm and started running that exciting things happened.

Gannon ran for 236 yards and scored a couple times on his own — including an 18-yarder against Phoenix where he ran completely across the field and then bulled past a defender at the 2-yard line. With Randall Cunningham now a medical question mark, Gannon ranks just behind Steve Young and John Elway among running quarterbacks. Because of his scrambling skills, Gannon was sacked only 19 times.

The rushing TDs last year helped make Gannon an okay fantasy starter. He ranked 12th among quarterbacks in points generated on a per-start basis. He comes into this season as a first-string quarterback for the first time, although he has yet to be signed.

At $1.2 million a year, Wade Wilson makes an expensive backup — especially because the 33-year-old never developed into a top-caliber NFL quarterback. Wilson has never played an entire season and has thrown 15 touchdowns only once in his career.

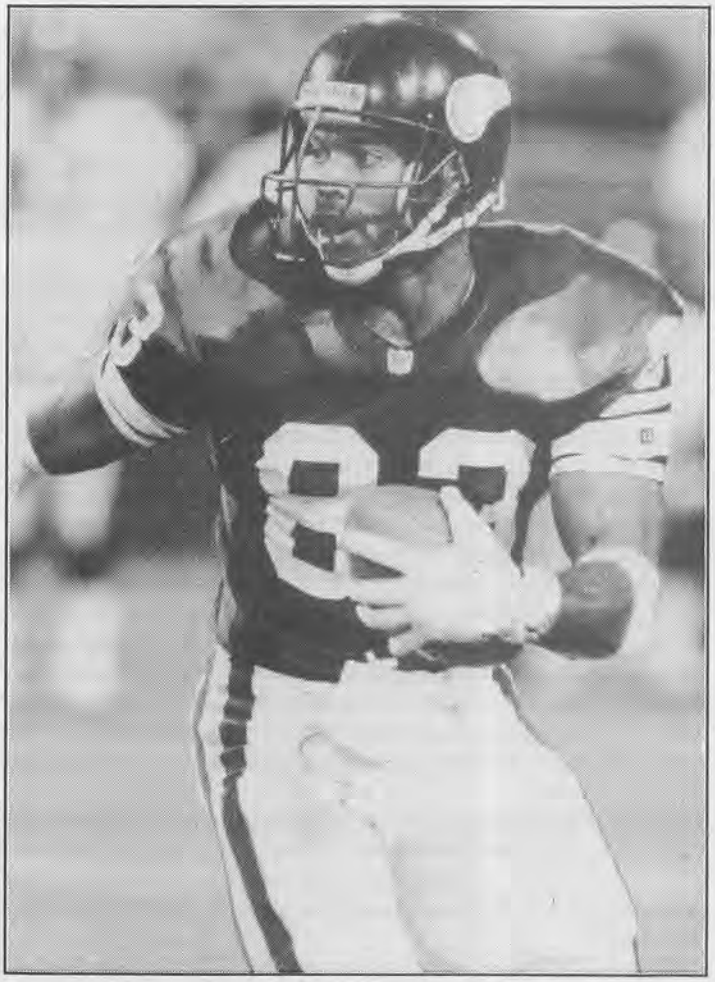
Last year the Vikings handed the reins to Wilson, and he once again fell flat on his face, throwing 10 interceptions and only three TD passes before being lifted for good in the Vikes' fifth game. In contrast, Gannon threw just six interceptions in three times as much action and was also the most sure-handed NFL quarterback last year, fumbling only twice.

Considering Wilson's age, contract and past failings, he'll probably lose the No. 2 position to journeyman-type Sean Salisbury, who's been cut by Seattle and Indianapolis and played in the CFL in 1988 and 1989. Some teammates think Salisbury's the best quarterback on the roster, and he had impressive preseason stats last year — 24-of-36, no interceptions, 370 yards and four touchdowns.

RUNNING BACK. One of the steals in fantasy drafts this year could be Minnesota's Terry Allen, who outperformed Herschel Walker last year and will get the chance to be the focus of Dennis Green's new offense.

Allen, for those who need a refresher, was a first-round-type back until he suffered a major knee injury his final year at Clemson. The Vikings drafted him in the ninth round and then let the 210-pounder spend the entire 1990 season rehabilitating his knee.

When he got on the field last year, Allen didn't look like a player with a bum knee. Against Tampa Bay, he carried the ball 14 times for 127 yards, including TD runs of 15 and 55 yards. Allen's per carry average of 4.7 yards was fourth best in the league among the 40 running backs with 100 or more carries.



▲ **Dennis Green will utilize Steve Jordan as an H-back.**

Looks like Minnesota got a steal when they made him the 34th running back drafted in 1990. Fantasy coaches may be saying the same thing if they can get him cheap in their player drafts. If Allen doesn't get much ink in preseason, some fantasy coaches will be thrown off the trail by Plan B signee Roger Craig — the 32-year-old insurance policy should Allen's knee fail.

Craig's best chance of contributing will be as a third-down back because he's got good blocking and receiving skills. Darrin Nelson, who retired and then unretired, is also still around, however.

Walker's NFL career is over in Minnesota. He doesn't want to play for the Vikings, nor does Minnesota want him back. They not only didn't invite him to their spring minicamp, they asked him to stay away. According to Walker's agent, the former Georgia star will play football for someone this fall. The Jets were rumored to be interested in his services.

Minnesota has been trying desperately to trade Walker, who's now 30. So far, no takers. If and when the Vikings don't even make him a contract offer by June 1, he becomes an unresticted free agent — free to make a deal with any team he chooses. Walker may end up with the Rams or Dolphins, or maybe a CFL team. He's been mumbling about trying to compete in the Summer Olympics.

Alfred Anderson and injury-prone Rick Fenney are the team's fullbacks.

RECEIVER. Minnesota was one of eight teams with two wide receivers

that scored five touchdowns. The problem for fantasy coaches is deciding which Carter to chose — Anthony or Cris.

Anthony Carter scored six touchdowns but had his worst season since leaving the USFL for Minnesota in 1985. He had a career average of 17.6 yards per catch entering the season but was completely shackled last year. Anthony finished with a 10.8 average and compiled only 553 receiving yards after three straight 1,000-yard seasons.

Among the 42 wideouts with 50 receptions last year, only Houston's Curtis Duncan had a lower average. Some of AC's problems were caused by the unsettled quarterbacking situation. Because he's now 32 years old, however, you wonder if he's beginning to slow down.

Cris Carter had 72 receptions to lead the team his first year as a starter. At 27 years of age, he's the younger Carter, although still not as fast. His snail-like speed was the reason Philadelphia waived him prior to the 1990 season.

When he was with the Eagles in 1989, Carter's leaping ability and 6-foot-3 inch frame allowed him to beat defenders on fade patterns and score 11 times. None of his five touchdowns last year came on fades, however, even though the Vikings had eight scoring passes from inside 10 yards. He also could be a signing problem. He was significantly more productive than AC last year, but he made $600,000 less.

Hassan Jones and second-year receiver Jake Reed aren't serious candidates to crack the starting lineup.

Green plans to move tight end Steve Jordan to a pass-catching H-back role. Jordan is 32 years old but keeps going strong. He was third among tight ends in catches last season and was named to his sixth straight Pro Bowl.

Mike Tice's four TD catches last year for Seattle were an aberration. The Plan B free agent was signed for his blocking skills. Green will use multiple tight end formations frequently, so Mike Jones and Brent Novoselsky will also see playing time.

KICKER. Fuad Reveiz was below-average in field goal accuracy last year, but all seven of his misses were from at least 46 yards. His average miss of 48.9 yards was the highest in the league.

Look for the Vikings to scale back the number of 50-yard-type field goals they allow their Colombian-born kicker to attempt — if he makes the team. Reveiz was a perfect 14-for-14 up to 45 yards last year, but only 3-for-10 outside that range. Reveiz's below-average leg strength is well-known, so the Vikes had the luxury of leaving him unprotected.

1991 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

Passing	Att	Comp	Yards	Pct	TD	Int	'90 TD	'89 TD
Gannon	354	211	2166	59.6	12	6	16	0
Wilson	122	72	825	59.0	3	10	9	9
Vikings	477	284	3016	59.5	16	16	25	17
Opp.	499	286	3396	57.3	16	17	20	18

Rushing	Att	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD	'90 TD	'89 TD
Walker	198	825	4.2	t71	10	5	5
Allen	120	563	4.7	t55	2	0	-
Gannon	43	236	5.5	42	2	1	0
Nelson	28	210	7.5	29	2	0	0
Vikings	464	2201	4.7	t71	18	10	12
Opp.	456	1837	4.0	54	17	12	14

Receiving	No	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD	'90 TD	'89 TD
C.Carter	72	962	13.4	50	5	3	11
Jordan	57	638	11.2	25	2	3	3
A.Carter	51	553	10.8	t46	5	8	4
Walker	33	204	6.2	19	0	4	2
H.Jones	32	384	12.0	43	1	7	1
Vikings	284	3016	10.6	50	16	25	17
Opp.	286	3396	11.9	t75	16	20	18

Kicking	XP-A	FG-A	Lg	Pts	'90 Pts	'89 Pts
Reveiz	34/35	17/24	50	85	65	55
Opp.	34/35	20/29	50	94	122	71

Minnesota was a haven for high-scoring kickers a couple of years ago, but not anymore. Only four teams attempted fewer field goals than the Vikings last year, and Reveiz finished 20th in kicking points.

DEFENSE. Minnesota's defense, the best in the league in '88 and '89, has really sagged the past two years. With six starters over 30 years of age and a defensive line that's the third-lightest in football, don't expect a dramatic improvement this season.

The Vikings, to put it simply, can't stop the run. Barry Sanders burned them for 336 yards and five touchdowns in the team's two losses to Detroit. Minnesota has finished 20th and 21st in run defense the past two seasons.

The pass defense, with only 16 TDs allowed, looks okay but that's only because no team in the NFC Central passes the ball and the Vikings played the easiest schedule in their conference.

	at Chi. 6-10	at Atl. 20-19	S.F. 17-14	at N.O. 0-26	Den. 6-13	at Det. 20-24	Phoe. 34-7	at N.E. 23-26	at Phoe. 28-0	T.B. 28-13	Chi. 17-34	at G.B. 35-21	Det. 14-34	at T.B. 26-24	Rams 20-14	G.B. 7-27
Gannon	-	-	-	1-3-0-(-2)	4-7-0-29	10-23-0-105 2	23-31-0-254 18 run, 42,3	35-63-0-317 4	17-26-1-142 5	19-28-0-160 2	19-30-1-181 29	19-30-0-215 5 run,29,3,17	19-30-0-243	12-24-0-145 5	13-20-0-152	20-39-1-225 9
Wilson	21-37-3-248	13-18-1-157 25,39	17-24-1-199 46	11-22-2-120	10-21-3-101	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Walker	20-86	25-125	25-72 1	10-15	12-103	shoulder probable	12-30 1	6-7 1	17-79 16,1,5	7-13	4-14	20-95 5	9-28 1	16-126 71	8-14 2	7-18
Allen	-	-	-	2-16	3-29	15-41	11-34	9-40	7-45	14-127 15,55	8-27	11-60	7-16	12-64	16-60	5-14 9 catch
A.Carter	2-73	4-28 14 run	3-71 46	3-27	2-13	1-5	4-25 3	9-82 4	3-18	knee Questnble	2-33 29	6-69	2-35 25	4-23	5-57	2-24
C.Carter	4-36	4-84 25,39	4-32	3-16	4-42	2-19	6-118 42	10-114	-	3-31	8-85	7-94 29,17	7-116	1-41	1-17	7-112
Jordan	7-84	3-43	2-15	2-24	2-23	4-44 2	5-52	7-67	5-54	2-13 2	2-21	2-26	3-41	4-50	4-46	2-30
Reveiz	26,24 -	- miss: XP	31 -	- -	49,25 -	42,25 -	- miss: XP	23,32,23 miss: 47	- -	- miss: 51,46	20 -	- miss: 50	- -	50,40,32,50 miss: 49	20,22 -	- miss: 49,50
Others						Nelson 11 run	Anderson 6 run		H.Jones 5 catch	22 int return	Nelson 6 run	M.Jones 3 catch	Nelson 25 throw	M.Jones 5 catch	97 int return	

New England Patriots

You've got to hand it to Dick MacPherson. Wayne Fontes got all the Coach-of-the-Year awards, but the job MacPherson did rebuilding the Patriots last season was nothing short of amazing.

MacPherson, who hadn't coached in the pros in 10 years, took a 1-15 team that set a record for the fewest points scored in a 16-game season and brought it back to a respectable 6-10. New England even beat three playoff teams and lost four other games in the final minute.

The Patriot offense improved dramatically as the year wore on. New England averaged a league-low 213 yards per game of total offense through the first six weeks, but it regrouped during the bye week and came back to average 320 yards a game the rest of the season. The league average is 306.

They haven't turned the corner completely, however. New England's offense still produced only 21 touchdowns — barely one score per game. Perhaps a year's experience and an offseason together will result in better numbers this season.

"Last minicamp we had to learn the alphabet." Hugh Millen told a *Boston Globe* reporter. "None of us were on the same page. Next year it will be different. I'm not saying we'll be reading Shakespeare, but at least we'll be up to Curious George."

QUARTERBACK. Last year, Hugh Millen beat out Tommy Hodson for the job as New England's starting quarterback. This year, he'll start beating out mediocre NFL starters for roster spots on fantasy franchises.

Millen, probably the most valuable Plan B pickup in the four-year history of the system, threw nine touchdowns in 13 starts last year, readying himself to make the leap to fantasy backup status this year.

What he needs most of all is better protection. Remember all those highlights of Jeff George getting sacked last year? Patriot quarterbacks were sacked more. New England allowed a league-high 63 sacks.

Even while operating under horrendous pressure, Millen was able to compete 60 percent of his passes and have the fifth-best yards-per-attempt average in the league. He also threw for over 300 yards three times.

Millen's got a decent touch on long-ball stuff. Five of his nine TD passes last year came from outside 40 yards. Just think what he might do with a little protection. The Patriots have a couple of nice young offensive tackles, but have cut loose four different players who started at guard last year.

The team's success in patching its glaring offensive line problems in the offseason will be instrumental in determining Millen's fantasy success. Give him time to throw and Millen will be capable of producing 16 or 17 TD passes. It doesn't hurt that he's working with a decent corps of receivers.

Tommy Hodson was dreadful in the two games before Millen was given the starting nod. He'll battle second-year man Scott Zolak for the No. 2 position.

RUNNING BACK. In his rookie year, Leonard Russell was more productive when New England was winning, averaging 83 yards a game in the six wins against only 46 per game in the 10 losses. That's because MacPherson abandons his run-based attack and goes to a no-huddle offense when his team falls behind. It's a trend to be remembered by fantasy coaches considering starting Russell.

"Once we get into that two-minute O, I'm on the sidelines by the heater," Russell said after the 29-7 loss at Cincinnati.

When he did stay on the field, there was no arguing with the results produced by the first-round pick out of Arizona State. The 6-foot-2, 235-pounder provides a rare combination of size and power. He ripped off 959 yards in his first season, even though he ran behind that ragtag offensive line that allowed an NFL-high 63 sacks. A thousand yards should be in the cards this season.

▲ **Hugh Millen directed upsets of three playoff teams.**

Russell figures as a good, rather than awesome, scorer for fantasy teams, however. New England scored only nine rushing touchdowns as a team last year, and less than half of those (four) went to Russell. Don't count on him adding a bunch of receiving touchdowns, because he's a so-so receiver and the Patriots don't throw to their backs. They were the only team in the NFL that didn't have a running back catch a TD pass.

Former Pro Bowler John Stephens, who finally signed just days before the season, gained only 163 yards all year and was reportedly told by the coaching staff to bulk up in the offseason to prepare himself for a new role as a blocking fullback.

"Three years ago I was the guy," Stephens said. "Now someone else is the guy." The 1988 first rounder, who rushed for 1,168 as a rookie, is still relatively young at 26. He scored on two 1-yard runs last year.

The other back in the picture is Jon Vaughn, who was drafted in the fifth round last year and played effectively in his brief action. Blocking back Ivy Joe Hunter suffered a knee injury late in the season and may not be able to regain his starting job.

RECEIVER. After the team's final game of the 1990 season, Irving Fryar went public and said he'd never play for the Patriots again. "I'm out of here, man," he said.

MacPherson was not only able to convince Fryar to return to Foxboro but to rejuvenate his interest in the game. Fryar exceeded his career-high catch total by 14 and also went over 1,000 yards receiving for the first time in his eight-year career.

Fryar will turn 30 before the Patriots' fifth game, but he's still got all the speed and talent that prompted the Patriots to use the No. 1 overall pick in the 1984 draft to get him. All three of his touchdowns came from at least 40 yards.

Fryar's success will depend on the improvement of Hugh Millen. If the young quarterback can get New England's passing game cranked up (the Patriots have only 25 passing TDs the last two years) Fryar can be a decent fantasy performer.

The Patriots' other projected starter, Hart Lee Dykes, has been plagued by injuries since leading all rookies in receptions in 1989. The former first-rounder missed the last six games of the 1990 season after suffering an eye injury in a bar brawl, and he missed the entire season last year with a broken kneecap. Watch how he performs in preseason.

Michael Timpson and Greg McMurtry figure to battle for the No. 3 wide receiver spot. Timpson is a speedster who caught 19 passes and scored on two bombs in the season's final three games. McMurtry, at 6-foot-2 and 207 pounds, is a physical clone of Dykes. He won't scare defenses with his speed, but he can use his large frame to catch balls in traffic.

Tight end Marv Cook has caught more passes than any tight end in the league over the past two seasons. Last year, he grabbed 82 balls, the most catches by a tight end since 1986. He's scored eight touchdowns over the last two years.

Cook, who's a lightweight blocker, catches so many balls because the Pats don't utilize their running backs in their passing offense. New England directed an NFL-high 32 percent of their passes to the tight ends, and Cook was named a first-team All-Pro.

KICKER. Miami kicker Pete Stoyanovich's holdout was a blessing for New England. While the Dolphin's holdout for a new contract lasted the entire summer and two games into the regular season, it gave the Patriots a chance to watch free agent Charlie Baumann hit 8-of-9 field goals while keeping the tee warm.

When Patriot regular Jason Staurovsky pulled a quad muscle against Buffalo in week 10, Baumann was called in to finish the season. The rookie was impressive enough that New England protected him. Staurovsky chose to sign with the Jets.

Fantasy success for Baumann may still be another year or so off, however. The Patriots as a team scored only 79 kicking points, ranking 24th in the league.

DEFENSE. Long-time Denver assistant Joe Collier did a miraculous job in patching one of the league's worst defenses. In 1990, the Patriots let 10 different runners go for over 100 yards against them and gave up 29 touchdowns on the ground. Under Collier, they allowed only one 100-yard performance and five rushing TDs.

1991 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

Passing	Att	Comp	Yards	Pct	TD	Int	'90 TD	'89 TD
Millen	409	246	3073	60.1	9	18	1	1
Patriots	481	284	3442	59.0	11	22	14	17
Opp.	565	335	4035	59.3	25	12	21	27

Rushing	Att	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD	'90 TD	'89 TD
Russell	266	959	3.6	24	4	-	-
Stephens	63	163	2.6	13	2	2	7
Patriots	433	1467	3.4	24	9	4	12
Opp.	460	1579	3.4	31	5	29	19

Receiving	No	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD	'90 TD	'89 TD
Cook	82	808	9.9	49	3	5	0
Fryar	68	1014	14.9	t56	3	4	3
McMurtry	41	614	15.0	40	2	0	-
Timpson	25	471	18.8	t60	2	0	0
Russell	18	81	4.5	18	0	-	-
Patriots	284	3442	12.1	t60	11	14	17
Opp.	335	4035	12.0	t65	25	21	27

Kicking	XP-A	FG-A	Lg	Pts	'90 Pts	'89 Pts
Staurovsky	10/11	13/19	42	49	67	56
Baumann (Tot.)	15/16	9/12	48	42	-	-
Patriots	19/21	20/29	46	79	67	87
Opp.	30/31	29/42	49	117	132	103

	at Ind. 16-7	Clev. 0-20	at Pitt. 6-20	Hou. 24-20	at Phoe. 10-24	Mia. 10-20	Minn. 26-23	Den. 6-9	at Buff. 17-22	at Mia. 20-30	Jets 21-28	Buff. 16-13	at Den. 3-20	Ind. 23-17	at Jets 6-3	at Cin. 7-29
Millen	-	-	-	23-33-3-244 34	12-21-0-115	17-31-2-291	22-32-1-326 18	17-25-0-164	14-30-1-177	20-26-1-257 40,5	30-43-1-372 56	20-39-2-263 2 run,59	19-36-2-247	21-40-2-330 2,45	11-20-1-116	21-33-2-271 60
Hodson	13-18-0-136 23	12-26-2-95	1-24-2-114 '	hand Probable												
Russell	24-72	12-60	16-47	19-85 2	3-7	2-4	25-78 1(	17-89	27-106 1,3	19-57	8-5	19-69	14-41	20-82	26-112	15-45
Stephens	-	-	6-11	4-14	5-23	12-20 1	9-12	5-20	1-4	4-14	2-13	5-9	-	4-7 1	3-6	3-10
Vaughn	4-9	1-3	neck Probable	1-2 13 throw	7-61 99 KO return	4-9	1-6	-	-	-	10-43 3,2	-	-	3-13	-	-
Fryar	4-57	2-23	5-62	6-57	1-7	4-45	9-161	4-33	5-73	4-56 40	8-143 56	6-134 50	4-81	-	1-24	5-58
McMurtry	-	1-13	-	3-58 34	2-31	3-47	3-69 18	3-34	1-40	3-44	7-94	3-27	4-38	8-119	ankle Questnble	ankle doubtful
Cook	6-57 23	3-17	3-21	10-99 13	6-42	6-46	6-57	5-43	-	4-55 5	8-89	7-69	6-75	6-90	2-19	4-29
Staurovsky	35,39,36 -	- -	33,28 miss: 45	33 -	39 miss: 38	37 -	42,38 miss: XP,36	20,17 miss: 25	36 miss: 46,35	Quad Out	Quad Out	Quad Out	Quad Out	Quad Out	Quad Out	Quad Out
Baumann	with Miami	with Miami	free agent	free agent	free agent	free agent	free agent	free agent	free agent	44,37 -	- miss: 22	46 miss: XP,34	23 -	24 -	45,41 -	- -
Others					99 kickoff return		Childress recovers Russell's fumble							Timpson 45 catch Coates 2 catch		Timpson 60 catch

New Orleans Saints

"Contract." It's the big word in New Orleans this summer.

Linebacker Pat Swilling signed a new one worth $1.8 million a year. Another superstar linebacker, Rickey Jackson, is unsigned and figures he'd like the same kind of money.

Wide receiver Eric Martin will also be negotiating a new contract, after complaining about his salary for years.

And it seems every running back on the team needs a new contract. The Saints are looking at having four different running backs with salaries in excess of $600,000 annually — and that doesn't include the team's top two rushers last year. One of those guys needs a contract too.

Owner Tom Benson will have to do the Big Bucks Boogie if the Saints plan on getting everyone in camp and making a run at defending their NFC West title.

QUARTERBACK. Bobby Hebert returned after a 25-month hiatus, but his comeback only lasted one game. Technically, the former USFL star played in nine games, but he suffered a sprained shoulder in the opener and threw in pain all season.

When he further injured the shoulder at midseason, Hebert was forced to sit out six games, and there's no telling how much the injury affected his stats while he was playing. Exploratory surgery after the season showed Hebert's rotator cuff was merely bruised, not torn. He should be fine for training camp.

Hebert will have to prove that he can still put up good fantasy numbers. He last posted a 20-touchdown passing season in 1988 and has failed to throw a TD pass in nine of his 22 starts since 1989. Hebert sat out the 1990 season in a contract dispute.

When Hebert was hurt last year, Steve Walsh stepped in and threw 11 TDs in eight games, scoring in all but one of his games. The Saints were 8-2 while quarterbacked by Hebert and only 3-4 under Walsh, but that doesn't mean there's a world of difference between these quarterbacks — although a lot of people will tell you that's the case.

Remember these two were locked in a quarterback battle last year that was so close it wasn't decided until after the final game of the preseason. The rap that Walsh takes in the win-loss comparison is completely unfair — especially when you consider that when he came off the bench to rally the Saints to a win in Philly, it counted as a win for Hebert.

Don't blame the losses against San Diego and Atlanta on Walsh either. It wasn't Walsh who coughed up the costly late-game fumbles. After those losses, he played well on the road against San Francisco and Dallas, two red-hot teams. Hebert ended the losing streak by coming back and quarterbacking the team to wins over Phoenix and a disorganized Raider team. That's when everyone decided he was "the missing spark." It's not the way to compare quarterbacks.

Walsh will one day be a successful quarterback, and he's a challenger to Hebert even now. He had a superior TD-to-interception ratio last year and probably wouldn't have thrown the end zone and last-minute interceptions that Hebert did to lose the playoff game to Atlanta.

RUNNING BACK. The Saints had a cast of thousands at running back prior to draft day. Now it looks like they've got one guy who could do the bulk of their scoring on the ground — Vaughn Dunbar. Considering that he was the third running back drafted, he could also come pretty cheap in a fantasy draft.

Dunbar's not a Barry Sanders or Emmitt Smith, but he's a good match with the Saints' move-the-chains offense. Ever since Dalton Hillard screwed up his knee in 1990, the Saints have been looking for an every-down back. In Dunbar, they think they found their man.

If Dunbar is signed on time, look for him to be the center of the entire offense. A 1,000-yard season is a distinct possibility. Sixth-rounder Fred McAfee, who was cut and then placed on the practice squad, ran wild for 489 yards in the final seven games last year after injuries depleted the Saint backfield. McAfee's a small back, and he had crucial fumbles in the losses to Atlanta and San Diego, so he's not really a contender for substantial playing time.

▲ **Bobby Hebert was bothered by a sore shoulder last year.**

The one knock on Dunbar is his speed, and maybe that's why runner-hungry teams like Seattle, Pittsburgh, and Atlanta passed on him. Coming out of college, Dunbar's accomplishments and abilities remind us of another Indiana running back — Anthony Thompson, the second-round bust of the Cardinals.

It's obvious after Hilliard's knee problems of the past two years that he is no longer the same back that ran for 1,262 yards in 1989. His numbers in the Saints' last two games: 18 carries, 32 yards. Because of his big price tag, it wouldn't be shocking if he got waived.

A player the Saints wish they'd never traded a fifth-round pick for is Allen Pinkett, but they didn't know Dunbar would still be on the board when it was their turn to draft. The former Oiler will battle McAfee for the backup tailback job.

Craig Heyward is waddling his way right out of the league, unless he makes a position switch to offensive guard. The blubber back has reportedly hit 320 pounds in the offseason. Heyward was suspended last season for getting out of shape, so look for the Saints to just cut him. They don't have any pants that big anyway.

Buford Jordan, not Heyward, will likely be the starting fullback.

RECEIVER. Eric Martin has led the team in receiving every year since

1987, but the Saints look like they have a new No. 1 wide receiver — Floyd Turner.

Turner, a sixth-round pick in 1989, really came on after the team traded Brett Perriman to Detroit during the preseason. Turner caught two fewer balls than Martin but was by far the team's most dangerous receiving threat,

totaling nearly 1,000 yards in receptions and scoring eight times.

Two of Turner's touchdowns came from 47 and 65 yards. Martin hasn't scored from outside 40 yards since early in the 1989 season — and that's no coincidence. Martin, who'll be 31 before the season's over, is probably among the five slowest starting wide receivers in the league. He might be a holdout, too.

Wesley Carroll's rookie season was, as they say in NFL talk, inconclusive. The team's top pick missed 28 days of training camp, then caught 18 passes for 184 yards. We'll see this year if he's capable of pushing for a starting spot.

Speedy Quinn Early was one of the more underrated Plan B pickups last year. As the third receiver, he contributed 32 receptions with a healthy average of 16.9 yards. Only two touchdowns, though.

For the first time in the 25-year history of the franchise, the team went an entire season without a tight end scoring a touchdown. That lethal tight end combination of John Tice and Hoby Brenner, who combine for 20 years of experience, spent the year nicked with injuries. They'll be pushed by youngster Frank Wainwright.

KICKER. Morten Andersen bounced back from his lowest-scoring season since 1983 to rank fifth in the league with 113 last year. He highlighted his season in the Chicago game by becoming the third kicker in NFL history to kick a field goal from 60 yards.

The 60-yarder, along with a 52-yard blast, allowed Andersen to tie Nick Lowery's record of 18 field goals from 50-plus yards. Andersen remains in second place in his nine-year battle with Lowery for the all-time accuracy title. Andersen lost 25 one-hundredths of a percentage point to Lowery last year. The fact is, they're both good kickers.

DEFENSE. The Saints were the most difficult team in the NFL to score on last year, allowing only 211 points — and 35 of those were given up by the offense and special teams.

1991 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

Passing	Att	Comp	Yards	Pct	TD	Int	'90 TD	'89 TD
Hebert	248	149	1676	60.1	9	8	0	15
Walsh	255	141	1638	55.3	11	6	12	5
Saints	506	292	3419	57.7	20	15	15	23
Opp.	491	259	3057	52.7	12	29	21	23

Rushing	Att	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD	'90 TD	'89 TD
McAfee	109	494	4.5	34	2	-	-
Fenerty	139	477	3.4	54	3	2	-
Heyward	76	260	3.4	15	4	4	1
Hilliard	79	252	3.2	t65	4	0	13
Saints	483	1709	3.5	t65	15	14	19
Opp.	334	1213	3.6	33	6	8	10

Receiving	No	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD	'90 TD	'89 TD
Martin	66	803	12.2	30	4	5	8
Turner	64	927	14.5	t65	8	4	1
Early	32	541	16.9	52	2	1	0
Fenerty	26	235	9.0	t50	2	0	0
Tice	22	230	10.5	22	0	0	1
Hilliard	21	127	6.0	t14	1	1	5
Saints	292	3419	11.7	t65	20	15	23
Opp.	259	3057	11.8	t80	12	21	23

Kicking	XP-A	FG-A	Lg	Pts	'90 Pts	'89 Pts
Andersen	38/38	25/32	60	113	92	104
Opp.	22/23	17/21	50	73	93	91

New Orleans allowed only 18 touchdowns last year — about one a game. The secondary lost three backups in Plan B, but with linebackers like Pat Swilling, Rickey Jackson, Sam Mills and Vaughn Johnson, the Saints will live.

Thanks in part to a combined 28.5 sacks by Swilling and Jackson, New Orleans tied Philadelphia with an NFL-high 48 takeaways. Opposing quarterbacks threw 29 interceptions (and only 12 TDs) against the Saints last year. The only surprise was that the New Orleans defense didn't score more. The Saints scored three times last year, twice on interception returns.

	Sea. 27-24	at K.C. 17-10	Rams 24-7	Minn. 26-0	at Atl. 27-6	at Phil. 13-6	T.B. 23-7	Chi. 17-20	at Rams 24-17	S.F. 10-3	at S.D. 21-24	Atl. 20-23	at S.F. 24-38	at Dall. 14-23	Rdrs. 27-0	at Phoe. 27-3
Hebert	18-29-2-226 **50,10**	19-27-0-211 **45,13**	14-28-1-193	11-25-1-109	18-29-0-197 **47,17**	2-8-2-29 (starter)	shoulder probable	27-39-1-291 **65,8**	shoulder Probable	shoulder Questnble	shoulder doubtful	shoulder Questnble	shoulder Questnble	shoulder Questnble	28-39-0-320	12-24-1-100 **19**
Walsh	-	-	-	-	-	8-17-0-96 **14**	19-31-2-211 **8**	-	17-33-1-269 **22,31**	10-25-1-116 **8**	21-34-1-203 **1,38**	15-34-1-194	25-42-0-317 **6,3**	26-39-0-238 **8,4**	-	-
Heyward	2-4	15-51	17-72 **1.1**	18-72 **8,8 (P)**	10-22	hamstring doubtful	hamstring Questnble	hamstring Questnble	14-39 **22 catch**	foot (IR) Out	foot (IR) Out	foot (IR) Out	foot (IR) Out	foot (IR) Out	foot (IR) Out	foot (IR) Out
Hilliard	9-18	9-24	7-2 **1**	hip Questnble	5-76 **65**	12-44 **14 catch**	3-4	9-8 (ribs-P)	arch doubtful	-	-	-	-	-	11-49 **1**	14-27 **2**
Fenerty	5-14 **50 catch**	1-(-3) (elbow-P)	11-81	20-106	17-55	14-14	20-56 **1**	8-25	knee probable	8-14 (knees-P)	15-41 (knees-P)	10-13 **2**	1-6	4-24 **4 catch**	4-31 **2**	1-0
McAfee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2-5	16-61	8-45	28-138 **1**	22-90 **12**	14-71	11-52	8-32
Turner	4-37 **10**	2-21	1-9	2-23	4-90 **47,17**	4-45	3-51	9-179 **65,8**	2-5	2-26	3-43	5-115	10-132 **6,3**	2-10	3-22	4-47 **19**
Martin	4-49	7-67 **13**	2-28	2-10	3-36	3-38	4-75 **8**	4-25	4-75	4-39 **8**	4-50	6-84	5-71	6-66 **8**	6-69	2-21
Andersen	**47,31** -	**40** -	**42** -	**34,30,38,26** -	**23,31** -	**36,26** miss: 43	**32,38,48** miss: 40	**60** -	**45** miss: 37	**21** -	- miss: 39	**39,31** miss: 55	**52** -	- miss: 54	**37,42** miss: 41	**27,39** -
Others	39 int return	Early 45 catch							Carroll 31 catch Jordan 11 run		37 blocked punt Jordan 1 catch Early 38 catch				31 int return	Jordan 3 run

New York Giants

The Giants have the potential to regain the NFC East title, but they'll have to pass Washington, Philadelphia and Dallas to do it — and play a schedule as challenging as any in the league.

New York not only has to face their tough NFC East rivals twice but also must contend with the 49ers, Bears, Chiefs, Broncos and Raiders. There are only five games that look like locks on paper.

One key for the Giants will be getting their offensive linemen signed. Eric Moore, Doug Riesenberg, Bart Oates and No. 1 backup Bob Kratch all need new contracts. If you're going to have smash-mouth running attack, you better have the big guys in camp.

QUARTERBACK. Ray Handley spent the entire preseason last year trying to decide who would be his starting quarterback. Smart fantasy coaches knew no decision was necessary — neither Jeff Hostetler nor Phil Simms would produce numbers good enough to help a franchise win a fantasy championship. The same should be true this year.

New York will have to abandon its power running game before a Giant quarterback will put up big fantasy numbers. Currently, the system is heavy on little dinky-dink tosses to the backs and tight ends. Giant quarterbacks completed 61 percent of their passes last year and were intercepted a league-low eight times (the NFL average is 17).

In 1990, when the Giants turned the ball over a NFL-record low 14 times, Simms set a team record by conservatively throwing only four interceptions in 311 pass attempts. Hostetler broke the old record as well in his turn as the starter, throwing four picks in 285 attempts.

But you don't make big plays without taking some chances, and the Giants don't take chances in this offense. Simms and Hostetler combined for only 13 touchdown passes last year.

The 31-year-old Hostetler was particularly ineffective for fantasy teams. He was the only NFL regular to not average even half a touchdown pass per game, throwing five TDs in 12 games before having his back broken by Broderick Thomas at Tampa Bay. Hostetler did help his fantasy stats slightly with a couple of rushing touchdowns — including a 47-yarder.

Simms threw eight TD passes in his four and a half games, but don't be misled. He hasn't had a productive fantasy season since 1988, and the only way he'll get on the field is if Hostetler is injured. Handley said as much after Simms hit 15 of 17 passes in the season-ending win over Houston.

"Hostetler is No. 1 and Simms may ask for a trade, retire or settle in as a backup," Handley told the New York media. "There will be no competition ... I don't intend to go through that again."

The 36-year-old Simms tried to work out a trade deal with Tampa Bay on his own, but talks fizzled when the Bucs signed former Chief Steve DeBerg in Plan B. It looks like Simms will finish his career in the Big Apple.

Youngster Jeff Carlson (Tampa Bay) was signed through Plan B.

RUNNING BACK. The thing you have to love about Rodney Hampton is his offensive line. Remember how the Giants shoved Buffalo around in Super Bowl XXV? Elliott. Riesenberg. Roberts. Moore. They're all still there, and they're all still under 30 years old.

Even a back without Hampton's superb talents might look pretty good running behind those guys, although it doesn't hurt to have Hampton's combination of inside power and breakaway speed.

In his second year out of Georgia, Hampton emerged as potential Pro Bowl player. He scored 10 touchdowns and was one of seven players to crack the 1,000-yard mark.

The only knock on Hampton is that he has been slowed by injuries in his college and pro career. Hampton was bothered by injuries during his career at Georgia, and he's been sidelined for a few weeks in each of his first two seasons in New York. He was a full-time player for the final 13 weeks last year, however.

▲ **Jeff Hostetler's awful '91 stats: five TD passes in 12 games.**

Hampton won't have Maurice Carthon as his lead blocker, because the veteran was unceremoniously dumped after bickering with Handley in the offseason. Carthon said Handley reneged on a promise to let him carry the ball more.

The fullback will be 1991 first-rounder Jarrod Bunch, who carried the ball only one time last year. The rookie fumbled after catching a short pass in an early season game and didn't get to handle the ball for the next 11 weeks.

Mini-back Dave Meggett doesn't carry the ball much (one rushing TD in three years), but he's been the team's receiving leader over the past two years. He's also the only player in the NFL who's returned a punt for a touchdown for three straight years. All those knick-knack touchdowns rarely amount to a solid fantasy year, however.

Considering Hampton's injury-speckled history, backup Lewis Tillman might rank as the second-most valuable fantasy back on the Giants' roster. He certainly showed last year that he's capable of running effectively behind the Giants' awesome line, averaging 4.4 yards per carry in his limited action.

Ottis Anderson, who was left unprotected for the fourth straight year, says he still wants to play. It's unlikely the 35-year-old will even make the roster, since he can't contribute on special teams.

RECEIVER. To get an idea of how few passes they throw to the wide receivers in New York, consider two items that don't go together: Steve

Largent's NFL record of 819 receptions and Mark Ingram, who's led the Giant wideouts in receptions the past two years.

At Ingram's current pass-catching pace, it will take him 33 more seasons to catch Largent — in the year 2024.

Wide receivers just don't produce big numbers in the short passing game of the Giants. Period. Those fantasy coaches who stubbornly start Ingram or Stephen Baker on their fantasy teams will only have themselves to blame.

Ingram's career-best year last season amounted to 51 catches and three TDs. Baker has 69 catches and 10 scores during the past three years.

Both wide receivers have impressive per-catch averages because they're used so infrequently. Trouble is, when you see Baker catch a 60-yard TD pass, it's probably the last time he'll score for a couple months.

Ed McCaffrey was a big disappointment as a rookie, dropping numerous passes. The Giants obviously weren't too impressed, because they signed a couple of wide receivers in Plan B, Chris Calloway of Pittsburgh and Millard Hamilton of New England.

Don't underestimate the potential impact of rookie tight end Derek Brown. There are have seven tight ends drafted in the first round since 1980, and only two have failed to score at least three touchdowns in their first seasons. Most recently, rookies Keith Jackson and Eric Green led all tight ends in scoring their first seasons.

Brown didn't have a chance to showcase his talents in Notre Dame's run-oriented attack, catching only 50 passes in his final three years. He'll be a marquee NFL performer when he hits his stride, however. Our only fantasy concern, however, is that the Giants also have a couple of other tight ends who'll see playing time — incumbent Howard Cross and third-rounder Aaron Pierce from the University of Washington.

Unprotected Zeke Mowatt, obviously, won't be wearing a Giant uniform again in his career.

KICKER. Matt Bahr is now 36 years old, but his consistency should enable him to hang on to his job for another year or two. Last year the former NASL soccer player hit 22 of 29 field goals and scored 90 points, despite being sidelined for three games with a leg injury.

Bahr may want to take out an insurance policy before the season, because there seems to be some kind of placekickers' injury hex at Giants Stadium. The team hasn't had a kicker play a full season since Ali Haji-Sheikh in 1984.

When Bahr's healthy, he should be a decent scorer. The combined output of the Giant placekickers last year was 101 points, only a shade outside the top 10 kickers in the league.

DEFENSE. The Giants allowed the fewest touchdowns in the NFL during their Super Bowl year but slumped last season because of injuries. Erik Howard, Carl Banks and Lawrence Taylor were hurt for much of the year, and at one point the Giants were down to three healthy defensive linemen — and two of those were waiver pickups.

It's no wonder New York allowed a very un-Giant-like 4.2 yards per carry and finished 17th against the run. The Giants were one of only four teams that failed to return a fumble or interception for a touchdown last year. Given time to heal in the offseason, they'll be improved this year. Punt returner Dave Meggett is one of the best in the business, he's returned punts for touchdowns three straight years.

1991 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

Passing	Att	Comp	Yards	Pct	TD	Int	'90 TD	'89 TD
Hostetler	285	179	2032	62.8	5	4	3	3
Simms	141	82	993	58.2	8	4	15	14
Giants	428	261	3025	61.0	13	8	18	17
Opp.	440	251	3128	57.0	17	12	12	16

Rushing	Att	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD	'90 TD	'89 TD
Hampton	256	1059	4.1	44	10	2	-
Tillman	65	287	4.4	17	1	1	0
Hostetler	42	273	6.5	t47	2	2	2
Meggett	29	153	5.3	t30	1	0	0
Giants	487	2064	4.2	t47	16	17	17
Opp.	414	1726	4.2	t42	11	9	10

Receiving	No	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD	'90 TD	'89 TD
Ingram	51	824	16.2	41	3	5	1
Meggett	50	412	8.2	22	3	1	4
Hampton	43	283	6.6	19	0	2	-
Baker	30	525	17.5	52	4	4	2
Turner	21	356	17.0	55	0	0	4
Cross	20	283	14.2	30	2	0	1
Giants	261	3025	11.6	55	13	18	17
Opp.	251	3128	12.5	t75	17	12	17

Kicking	XP-A	FG-A	Lg	Pts	'90 Pts	'89 Pts
Bahr	24/25	22/29	54	90	80	88
Giants	29/30	24/31	54	101	101	122
Opp.	30/30	29/30	52	117	71	72

	S.F.	Rams	at Chi.	Clev.	at Dall.	Phoe.	at Pitt.	Wash.	at Phil.	at Phoe.	Dall.	at T.B.	at Cin.	Phil.	at Wash.	Hou.
	16-14	**13-19**	**17-20**	**13-10**	**16-21**	**20-9**	**23-20**	**13-17**	**7-30**	**21-14**	**22-9**	**21-14**	**24-27**	**14-19**	**17-34**	**24-20**
Hostetler	17-31-0-228	17-32-1-187 **1**	25-35-1-209	9-15-0-65	28-34-1-368 **19**	14-18-0-200 **7**	14-25-0-116 **12**	14-21-1-137	9-17-0-142	12-21-0-124 **4,47 runs**	14-22-0-182 **35**	6-14-0-74	back (IR) Out	back (IR) Out	back (IR) Out	back (IR) Out
Simms	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-2-0-9	-	-	10-14-0-100 **30**	26-44-0-296 **15,13,19**	7-23-2-100 **8,14**	23-41-2-288 **1 run,18**	15-17-0-200 **12**
Hampton	shoulder doubtful	shoulder Questnble	15-61 **6,3**	17-104 **28**	11-46	22-137 **12**	25-96	21-83 **1**	12-47 **1**	24-99 **1**	20-48 **1**	15-44 **5**	16-33	15-47	16-67	28-140 **2**
Meggett	4-26	1-2 **1 catch**	7-44	2-3	2-7	2-13	3-44 **30**	0-0	3-(-1)	0-0	1-1	2-8 **70 punt ret.**	1-0	2-22 **8,14 catches**	1-6	3-32
Baker	3-69	1-9	2-17	-	4-60 **19**	1-22	-	3-77	1-16	1-15	4-64	2-41 **30**	2-28 **15,13**	1-7	4-83	1-17
Ingram	6-76	2-36	4-35	1-9	6-142	3-35	1-6	-	3-53	3-46	3-64 **35**	3-56	7-116 **19**	2-37	6-88 **18**	1-25
Cross	1-15	1-20	2-43	1-11	2-18	1-30	2-20 **12**	-	-	1-9	-	1-11	2-21	2-34	-	4-51 **12**
Bahr	**35,28,35** miss: 51	**46,40** -	**35** miss: 43,35	**44,38** -	**43,29,25** miss: 52	**42,27** -	**45,40,44** -	leg, Probable	leg, Questnble	leg, Questnble	**27,37,22** -	- -	**37** -	- miss: 44,32	**36** -	**54** miss: 40
Others	Anderson 1 run					Mowatt 7 catch		Allegre 23,36 FGs	Allegre PAT	Allegre kicked		70 punt ret				Tillman 4 run

New York Jets

If the Jets hadn't been the NFL's worst team when they got inside the "red zone," they could have given fantasy teams some great players last season.

New York used its powerful running game to get inside the 20-yard line 63 times but converted those trips into only 25 touchdowns. That's 38 lost scoring opportunities for Blair Thomas, Rob Moore and Al Toon, who combined to get in the end zone only nine times.

The Jet offense was good enough that it ran more plays than any team in the league. However, it finished below average in touchdown production and attempted a league-high 43 field goals, making it one of the most disappointing teams in the league for fantasy coaches.

QUARTERBACK. If things go Bruce Coslet's way, the Ken O'Brien Era ended when the Jets lost at Houston in the playoffs. Immediately after the 17-10 loss, in which O'Brien threw three interceptions, Coslet termed the 1992 quarterback job "wide open."

Publicly, Coslet's calling the position open, but it's no secret that his No. 1 offseason priority is to get Browning Nagle ready to start at quarterback. Nagle spent the entire offseason in New York viewing film and studying side-by-side with Coslet, and the Jets also hired a new quarterback coach with Nagle in mind. "I'm building an extra bedroom behind my garage for Browning to live in," Coslet says.

Nagle, who attempted only two passes in his rookie season, has all the physical tools that O'Brien lacks. He's a 6-foot-3, 225-pounder who can throw the ball 70 yards — a prototype NFL quarterback. "The spitting image of Jim Kelly," says Howard Schnellenberger, who coached both in college.

Nagle looked horrible at the team's spring minicamp, however. He was so bad that ESPN draft expert Mel Kiper speculated the Jets would use their first-round pick to take David Klingler. If Nagle even beats out O'Brien, he doesn't figure to be a fantasy force until 1993 at the earliest.

O'Brien has been the starter since 1985, but he hasn't produce good fantasy stats in half a decade, even though he's had decent talent to work with.

Last year was the low-water mark of O'Brien's career in terms of fantasy production. He started all 16 games but threw only 10 touchdown passes, ranking him last among NFL starters. O'Brien has missed only one start in the last three years but still hasn't ranked among the top 20 in TD passes any of those years.

O'Brien's running skills are among the most limited in the league. In 114 games over nine years, he's never run for touchdown. He also hasn't been able to effectively connect on long balls recently; his two TD passes over 35 yards last year came on a Hail Mary and a flea-flicker.

Troy Taylor and East Carolina's Jeff Blake (sixth round) will battle for the No. 3 spot.

RUNNING BACK. Blair Thomas has shown in his first two seasons that he's merely a good — rather than a franchise — running back. More importantly to fantasy team coaches, the No. 2 pick of the 1990 draft no longer even projects as the top scorer on his own team.

That's because Coslet likes using his 230-pound fullback Brad Baxter, who's 35 pounds heavier than Thomas, in short-yardage and goal-line situations. Baxter tied a team record by plunging for 11 short touchdowns last year.

Thomas rushed for a respectable 728 yards in his second season but averaged only 3.9 yards per carry and had a long run of only 25 yards. The Jets tried to get him involved in the passing attack last season, but he averaged a modest 6.5 per reception and got in the end zone only once.

Even though the Jets scored a league-high 59 percent of their touchdowns on the ground last year, Thomas rates as a middle-round gamble at best — even though he was the only player in the league last year to throw, catch and run for a touchdown.

▲ **Blair Thomas hasn't developed into a franchise back.**

Baxter is everything as a fantasy prospect that fans expected Thomas to be. Week after week he seems to crash in for a touchdown. He's no slouch as a runner, either; he ran for 666 yards last year.

Oldies Freeman McNeil and Johnny Hector thrived in their reserve roles last year. They both averaged close to 6 yards a carry, ranking second and third among running backs with at least 50 carries.

McNeil has averaged better than 4.0 yards a carry for a record 11 straight years. Hector, who got the Jets in the playoff with a 132-yard game in Miami, could be the scorer if Baxter goes down.

RECEIVER. Only one set of receivers caught more passes than Rob Moore and Al Toon last year, so why don't the 6-foot-4 pair of Jumbo Jet receivers do a better job of scaring defenses?

Probably because they scored only two legitimate touchdowns all year long, even though they finished with a combined 144 catches and 1,950 yards receiving.

Toon set a record by becoming the first wide receiver in league history to catch 74 passes without scoring a touchdown. Even though he finished eighth in the league in receptions, he wasn't among the 185 players who caught touchdown passes last year.

Moore managed a reasonable five touchdown catches, but over half of those didn't come with any style points. His touchdowns included a garbage-time catch from Troy Taylor at Seattle, a flea-flicker against Indianapolis, and a halfback option pass in Cleveland.

You read about how Toon and Moore are great athletes. Toon has competed in the Olympic Trials, while Moore runs a 4.4 40-yard dash and has a 45-inch vertical leap. However, it's hard to find evidence of their talents on game day. They both look heavier than the 205 pounds they're listed at and seem to operate almost as mini tight ends, catching a lot of underneath stuff.

As a pair, only three of their 144 receptions went for longer than 32 yards. Perhaps the addition of the strong-armed Browning Nagle in the lineup will help.

Third receiver Chris Burkett was voted the team's MVP due in part to his outstanding special teams play. He recovered four fumbles on coverage teams and blocked two punts. He and the Jets' other extra receiver, Terance Mathis, actually combined for as many touchdowns (five) as Toon and Moore.

Last year, New York's only tight end touchdown came on a tackle-eligible toss to Trevor Matich at New England. You can bet that will change in a hurry with the addition of first-rounder Johnny Mitchell. Mitchell is a 260-pounder with great hands who runs a 4.65 40-yard dash. He came out of school two years early, but he should still be able to contribute right away.

With the addition of Mitchell, last year's time-sharing tight ends, Mark Boyer and Chris Dressel, are immediately made obsolete.

KICKER. The Jets, along with the Redskins, attempted the most field goals in the league last year. It just happened without all the fanfare in New York, as the team didn't have a Chip Lohmiller to knock in three after three.

Most of the blame should fall on Pat Leahy's 41-year-old shoulders. He just doesn't have it anymore after 18 NFL seasons. Leahy missed field goals that could have won or tied five games last year and missed all six of his attempts outside 40 yards. If the Jets plan on making the playoffs this year, they'll need a kicker with better range.

The back and hip problems that plagued Leahy last season have persisted and forced him to miss the team's April minicamp. He'll likely be replaced by either Raul Allegre or Plan B signee Jason Staurovsky.

Staurovsky has been cut six times by four clubs but has decent power and a career average of 71 percent — not bad when you consider the number of different snappers and holders he's worked with. He is also four years younger than the 33-year-old Allegre, who last played a full NFL season in 1985.

DEFENSE. Coslet is best known for his offensive prowess, but his top accomplishment in his two years as a head coach has been rebuilding the Jet defense. The Jets allowed 50 touchdowns in Joe Walton's final year; under Coslet, they've been able to cut that number to 31.

The Jets actually had the AFC's best defense against the run last year, allowing only 90 yards a game. Keep in mind, though, that half their games were against some of the worst running teams in the league — Indianapolis, Miami, Green Bay, Seattle, Houston and Cleveland.

1991 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

Passing	Att	Comp	Yards	Pct	TD	Int	'90 TD	'89 TD
O'Brien	489	287	3300	58.7	10	11	13	12
Jets	503	295	3429	58.6	12	12	14	14
Opp.	540	331	3765	61.3	21	18	23	31
Rushing	**Att**	**Yards**	**Avg**	**Lg**	**TD**	**'90 TD**	**'89 TD**	
Thomas	189	728	3.9	25	3	1	-	
Baxter	184	666	3.6	31	11	6	0	
Hector	62	345	5.6	47	0	2	3	
McNeil	51	300	5.9	58	2	6	2	
Jets	523	2160	4.1	58	17	16	11	
Opp.	379	1442	3.8	t51	8	15	16	
Receiving	**No**	**Yards**	**Avg**	**Lg**	**TD**	**'90 TD**	**'89 TD**	
Toon	74	963	13.0	32	0	6	2	
Moore	70	987	14.1	53	5	6	-	
Thomas	30	195	6.5	18	1	1	-	
Mathis	28	329	11.8	39	1	0	-	
Burkett	23	327	14.2	t50	4	0	1	
Jets	295	3429	11.6	53	12	14	14	
Opp.	331	3765	11.4	t73	21	23	31	
Kicking	**XP-A**	**FG-A**	**Lg**	**Pts**	**'90 Pts**	**'89 Pts**		
Leahy	30/30	26/37	40	108	101	71		
Jets	32/32	30/43	44	122	101	71		
Opp.	29/30	26/38	53	107	107	109		

	T.B. 16-13	at Sea. 13-20	Buff. 20-23	at Chi. 13-19	Mia. 41-23	at Clev. 17-14	Hou. 20-23	at Ind. 17-6	G.B. 19-16	Ind. 27-28	at N.E. 28-21	S.D. 24-3	at Buff. 13-24	at Det. 20-34	N.E. 3-6	at Mia. 23-20
O'Brien	16-25-0-176	13-29-2-128	21-35-1-237 5	16-30-0-184	18-24-0-221 17	19-23-0-195	24-42-1-269 18	14-19-1-205 47	16-29-0-209 50	23-36-0-329 15	26-41-0-309 35,3,7	16-30-1-175 6	14-28-2-171	19-36-2-173	19-38-0-161	13-24-1-158
Baxter	11-27	5-21	5-15	7-35 1	10-46 2,3	16-59 1	10-31 3	20-59 1	10-46	17-50 4,1	17-57	11-33	13-48 3	12-63	10-49	11-24 1,1
Thomas	23-92	3-25	12-42 5 catch	27-125	15-67	8-13 16 throw	9-9	12-43	15-50	11-58	6-19	15-76 1,22	15-52	5-18 6	10-24	3-15
Moore	2-40	6-98 6	5-94	4-44	6-98 17	5-57 16	5-51	4-96 47	1-6	1-39	6-82	6-74 6	3-32	5-53	5-53	6-70
Toon	chest Probable	4-51	8-89	1-29	4-52 (ribs-P)	5-88	6-51	4-47	8-109	6-93	9-127	4-49	3-62	6-58	5-53	1-5
Burkett	4-46	-	-	4-41	2-33 11 blk punt	-	6-81 18	-	1-50 50	2-28 15	1-7 7	1-7	1-12	knee Out	knee Questnble	1-22
Dressel	-	3-16	2-16	ankle Probable	1-4	2-11	-	-	1-(-2)	4-35	-	1-22	2-12	-	-	1-8
Boyer	3-18	-	shoulder Questnble	2-10	2-18	2-24	knee (IR) Out	knee (IR) Out	knee (IR) Out	1-13	-	1-8	2-41	1-1	2-20	-
Leahy	30,25,40 miss: 48	29,30 -	32,39 miss: 51	19,34 miss: 37,28	25,27 miss: 44	28 -	21,31 miss: 52	19 -	30,39,22,37 miss: 47	22,25 miss: 22,45	- -	28 -	19,23 -	22,25 miss: 30	miss: 23	hip-hamstring Questnble
Others	McNeil 1 run	Taylor 6 throw	McNeil 1 run		11 blck punt return 83 int ret.						Brown 1 run Mathis 35 catch Matich 3 catch			57 int return	Aguiar 23 FG	Allegre 25,44 & 30 FGs

Philadelphia Eagles

Who knows what would have happened in the NFC East last year if Green Bay linebacker Bryce Paup hadn't rammed his helmet into the planted left knee of Randall Cunningham in the first quarter of the season? It was probably the biggest play of the year — in both the NFL and fantasy leagues.

Philadelphia's defense became the first since 1975 to finish No. 1 against both the run and pass. The problem was the offense couldn't keep up.

Without Randall, the Eagles just couldn't move the ball. Philadelphia took the biggest offensive fall in the league last year, slipping from third in total yards to 25th and scoring 111 fewer points. One guy can make a difference.

When Cunningham comes back this year, coach Rich Kotite plans to put him behind a better offensive line. The Eagles left seven offensive linemen unprotected in Plan B and then signed three replacements. The Eagles were also talking to four teams about trading for proven blockers — including Anthony Munoz of Cincinnati.

"We've got to make our run now," Owner Norman Braman says. "Tomorrow is not the goal. Today is the goal."

QUARTERBACK. Fantasy coaches got a chance to see just how valuable Randall Cunningham was last year after the Eagles had to play a 16-game schedule without him.

The quarterbacking committee that guided the Eagle offense generated less than half as many fantasy points as Cunningham did in 1990, when he had a hand in 35 touchdowns — including five that he took in on his own. Jim McMahon plus Brad Goebel plus Jeff Kemp plus Pat Ryan does not equal Randall Cunningham.

Cunningham, when healthy, is the most valuable player in fantasy football because he's a double threat. He ran for 942 yards in 1990 while throwing 30 touchdown passes against only 13 interceptions. His 18 rushing touchdowns helped him finish first or tied for first in overall fantasy points in 1987, 1988 and 1990. If kicker Roger Ruzek gets hurt, Cunningham has field goal range up to 50 yards too.

Cunningham is a franchise quarterback — in both the NFL and in fantasy leagues. It's amazing that McMahon has been able to collect the support of a handful of thick-skulled fans in his quest to be the Philadelphia starter. "I'm not going to be happy being a backup," says McMahon, who managed only 12 scoring passes in 13 games last year. "I don't think there's any question I should at least compete for the starting job."

McMahon isn't capable of playing a 16-game season. Last year, he failed to finish four of his 11 starts. In the Redskin game, he sprained his knee while running out of bounds untouched and did not return. Talk about injury prone.

Owner Norman Braman says he won't consider allowing McMahon to start over a healthy Cunningham. "It's not Randall Cunningham question mark, it's Randall Cunningham exclamation point," he said.

McMahon might not even make the roster. Kemp is younger, cheaper and more durable.

After the Eagles couldn't sign 1991 fifth-rounder Craig Erickson to a contract, they spent a fourth-round pick on Florida State's Casey Weldon. That should spell the end for Brad Goebel, who was picked off six times in his two losing starts last year.

RUNNING BACK. The Eagles haven't had a consistently productive running back since the days of Wilbert Montgomery 10 years ago. Their attempted solution this year was to use their first and third picks in the draft to get Alabama's Siran Stacy and Notre Dame's Tony Brooks. If either one pans out, the Eagles could be Super Bowl material.

Kotite is ready to hand the ball to a rookie because his tailbacks didn't get the job done last year. The Eagles' top ground gainer last year rushed for only 440 yards. Philadelphia averaged only 3.1 yards per carry, last in the league. Just think how poorly they must do in practice against their own defense. The Eagles were first in the NFL against the run, allowing only 3.0 yards a pop.

▲ **Randall Cunningham should be ready for training camp.**

James Joseph, a seventh-rounder from Auburn, looked like he might be the answer with a midseason spurt, but he faded badly late in the season. Like fellow backup-type Heath Sherman, he just doesn't have the wheels or power to be a starter. Last year Sherman had the lowest average of any runner in the league with 100 carries, gaining just 2.6 yards per carry.

The ball will be put in the hands of the rookies from day one. Second-rounder Stacy was robbed of some of his breakaway speed by a 1990 knee injury but is still a dangerous runner. He's expected to be the starter. At 227 pounds, Brooks is 30 pounds heavier than Stacy, but he never fulfilled his potential for the Irish. Notre Dame's best running back last year was sophomore Jerome Bettis.

The Eagles' only proven running back is more of a receiver — Keith Byars. He's built like a fullback, but Byars has led all NFL backs in receptions for two straight seasons. Maybe the Eagles ought to let him run with the ball more. They were 10-1 last year when Byars carried the ball at least four times; in their other games they went 0-5.

RECEIVER. Neither Fred Barnett nor Calvin Williams ranks among the top 30 receivers in the NFL over the past two years, but these youngsters know how to find the end zone. Former coach Buddy Ryan

was wise in waiving veteran Cris Carter and putting these rookies on the firing line right away in 1990; now the Eagles' receiving problems seem settled for years to come.

For a little refresher, in 1990 the boy wonders made a dynamic debut in the big leagues. Neither one caught 40 passes, but they combined for 17 touchdowns. Who knows how many they would have caught last year but for Cunningham's absence? His injury caused Philadelphia's aerial TD total to shrink from 34 to only 17.

Barnett is slightly more valuable to fantasy teams because of his long-strike ability. Half of his 12 career touchdowns have come from outside 30 yards, including a couple in the 70-yard range last year. With Cunningham back at the controls, Barnett could push for a Pro Bowl spot this year.

Williams doesn't have Barnett's speed — he averaged only 9.9 yards per catch last year — but he might be a more accomplished receiver. The Purdue graduate cracked the starting lineup before Barnett in 1990. His numbers were off last year because he spent four weeks on injured reserve with a dislocated shoulder.

The Eagles' third receiver choice amounts to a battle between veteran Roy Green and Plan B signee Floyd Dixon from Atlanta.

The Philadelphia tight ends caught as many touchdown passes (seven) as the wide receivers last year. The key word with talented Keith Jackson is "holdout." The potential scoring stud needs a new contract, and the negotiations could get ugly.

Local boy Maurice Johnson could earn a few starts if Jackson holds out. The Temple grad caught two touchdown passes last year and is a sturdy blocker. Mickey Shuler, the 36-year-old former Jet, is expected to retire.

KICKER. Roger Ruzek should have been kicking for the NFC in the Pro Bowl instead of Chip Lohmiller. Although the Redskin kicker had a nice year, connecting on 31 of 43 field goals and piling up the most points by a kicker since 1983, he didn't have Ruzek's accuracy. The fourth-year Eagle kicker hit 28 of his 33 attempts, with two of the misses coming from 51 and 55 yards.

Projecting his accuracy, Ruzek would have connected on five more field goals than Lohmiller if he had been the Washington kicker.

Ruzek has finished seventh in total kicking points in each of the past two years. He was able to score 111 points last year because his pinpoint accuracy on field goals helped offset the Eagles' offensive problems.

1991 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

Passing	Att	Comp	Yards	Pct	TD	Int	'90 TD	'89 TD
McMahon	311	187	2239	60.1	12	11	0	10
Kemp (Tot.)	295	151	1753	51.2	9	17	0	0
Eagles	513	285	3169	55.6	17	27	34	23
Opp.	467	206	2807	44.1	16	26	23	26

Rushing	Att	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD	'90 TD	'89 TD
Joseph	135	440	3.3	24	3	-	-
Byars	94	383	4.1	28	1	0	5
Sherman	106	279	2.6	12	0	1	2
Eagles	446	1396	3.1	28	8	10	14
Opp.	383	1136	3.0	34	4	9	6

Receiving	No	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD	'90 TD	'89 TD
Barnett	62	948	15.3	t75	4	8	-
Byars	62	564	9.1	37	3	3	0
Jackson	48	569	11.9	t73	5	6	3
Williams	33	326	9.9	30	3	9	-
Green	29	364	12.6	42	0	4	7
Eagles	285	3169	11.1	t75	17	34	23
Opp.	206	2807	13.6	75	16	23	26

Kicking	XP-A	FG-A	Lg	Pts	'90 Pts	'89 Pts
Ruzek	27/29	28/33	51	111	108	38
Opp.	23/24	25/33	52	98	101	72

DEFENSE. What do Emmitt Smith, Rodney Hampton, Earnest Byner and Ricky Ervins have in common? They were the four running backs who were able to run for touchdowns against the Eagles last year. Philadelphia allowed only 71 yards per game on the ground.

And they made passers look even worse. Quarterbacks completed only 44 percent of their passes and threw 26 interceptions against the Eagles. If you calculate the passer's rating the NFL uses to judge its quarterbacks, the combined rating of Philadelphia's enemy QBs was a 52.1 — about the same as a Chris Chandler or Stan Gelbaugh. Ouch.

Philadelphia allowed 300 fewer yards than any defense ever has in a 16-game season — including the Steel Curtain of the late '70s and the Chicago Bears of 1985. This may be the best defense in the history of the game. Who else could go into the Astrodome on Monday night and keep Houston out of the end zone? Obviously, fantasy coaches rarely should start players against Philadelphia.

	at G.B. 20-3	Phoe. 10-26	at Dall. 24-0	Pitt. 23-14	at Wash. 0-23	at T.B. 13-14	N.O. 6-13	S.F. 7-23	Gnts. 30-7	at Clev. 32-30	Cin. 17-10	at Phoe. 34-14	at Hou. 13-6	at Gnts. 19-14	Dall. 13-25	Wash. 24-22
McMahon	17-25-2-257 32,75	19-34-0-173	18-29-0-207 11,6	22-31-1-286 1 run	4-6-0-32	knee Out	knee Out	19-28-2-222 19	16-26-0-229 73	26-43-1-341 16,70,5	18-33-1-195 10	10-25-3-162 18,28	12-20-1-84	6-11-0-51	elbow Out	elbow Out
Kemp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0-1-0-0	0-0-0-0	-	-	-	10-17-0-84 21	10-19-2-146 8	18-37-2-156 31	19-40-1-166 6,2
Joseph	-	1-5	9-16	-	-	-	-	-	18-68 11,1	20-89	19-32 1	25-85	12-56	14-36	10-30	6-26
Byars	4-11 32 catch	3-10	4-13 6 catch	8-22	2-11	2-11	1-0	3-9 19 catch	10-39	5-3	6-36	6-39 14	9-29	12-65	11-76	8-9
Barnett	2-83 75	6-67	7-111 11	6-42	2-19	hamstring, Questnble	3-34	2-12	3-61	8-146 70	6-108	4-90 18	3-36	2-68	4-22	4-49
C.Williams	1-5	2-24	1-16	IR Out	IR Out	IR Out	IR Out	2-12	2-19	6-76 5	2-24 10	-	5-32	4-40 8	5-44	3-34
Jackson	1-6	5-31	1-9	2-22	1-2	2-29	8-81	5-88	4-88 73	6-76 16	1-4	1-29 29	3-34 21	2-21	3-29	4-26 2
Ruzek	37,40 -	47 miss: 47	42 miss: 55	27,34,20 -	- -	18,45 -	48,41 -	- miss: 37	38,36,25 -	21,37,24,19 miss XP	37 miss: 42	- miss XP	23,29 -	46,21,51,36 -	37,47 miss: 51	38 -
Others		Sanders 3 run	Drummond 1 run	Drummond 2 run		fumble rec in end zone						fumble rec.; 34 fumb. ret.			Johnson 31 catch	Johnson 6 cat. 74 int. return

Phoenix Cardinals

When does the relief come for the Phoenix Cardinals? This is a team on an eight-game losing streak after playing perhaps the hardest schedule in the history of the league last year.

And guess what: The schedule doesn't get any easier this year.

The Cardinals' NFC East opponents, the Redskins, Cowboys, Eagles and Giants, combined to win 43 games last year. That is just one win short of highest total ever for the top four teams of a division (AFC West, 1983). The Cardinals not only have to face all those teams twice, they also have to play the 49ers, Saints and Falcons.

The NFL's scheduling format is designed to promote parity, but that's essentially 11 guaranteed losses right there.

At those offseason NFL owners meetings, owner Bill Bidwill probably lobbies harder than anyone to realign the league's divisions. The Cardinals have been geographically distant from the rest of the NFC East since packing up and leaving St. Louis after the 1987 season, but the difference in talent is even greater.

Phoenix averaged a meager 12.3 points per game last year. The Cards and Colts were the first teams since the NFL moved to a 16-game schedule in 1978 to have their offenses produce as few as 16 touchdowns.

Needless to say, this is not a team fantasy coaches should plan on building their fantasy franchises around. Expect a trying, if not final, year for Coach Joe Bugel.

QUARTERBACK. In 1990, Timm Rosenbach was one of only two quarterbacks to take every one of his team's snaps. Last year, he and Joe Montana were the only two regulars taking no snaps at all.

The injury of Rosenbach's right knee on a routine practice play 10 days before the start of the season squelched any chance the Cardinals had of escaping the NFC East cellar.

Rosenbach, remember, had been outstanding in his first full year as an NFL starter, actually ranking fourth in the league in fantasy points during the second half of the season.

We never got to find out in Year Two if he was the real deal or a flash in the pan, and his injury, which required major surgery, may prevent us from ever knowing how good he might have been.

Rosenbach insists that he'll be ready to go at the start of training camp (he started running in March), but the Cardinals are a bit more cautious. They say they won't use him until the third exhibition game at the earliest, and coach Joe Bugel is considering adding the shotgun formation so his 1989 first rounder won't have to run as much. The Cards also hedged their bets by drafting Tony Sacca of Penn State in the second round.

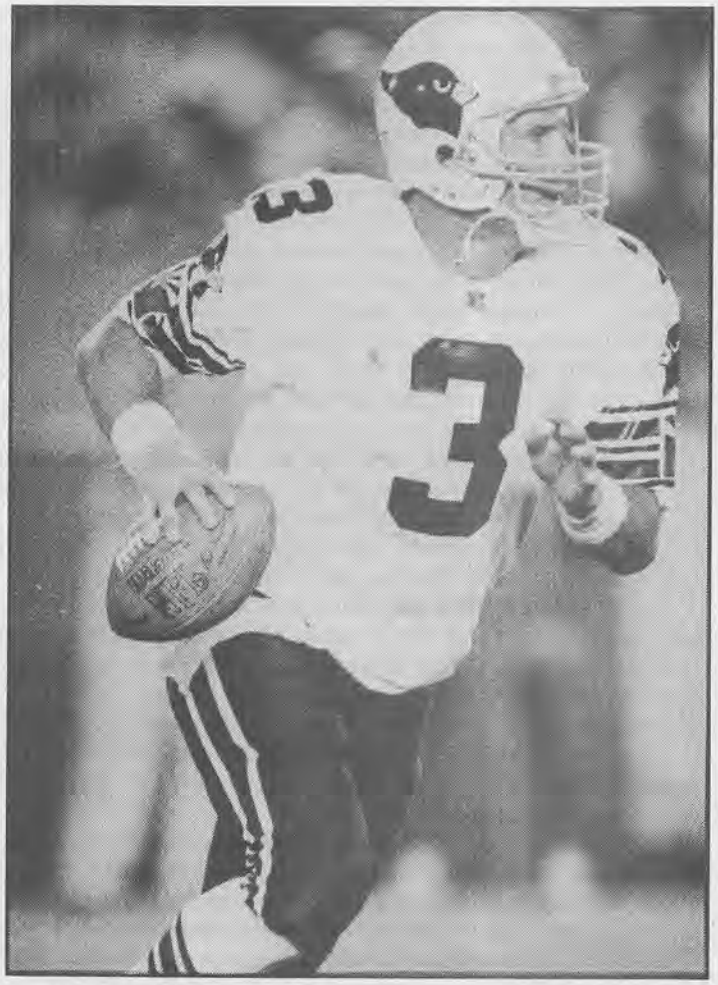
Keep in mind that one of the reasons for Rosenbach's success as a fantasy quarterback in 1990 was his running ability, he piled up 473 yards and three touchdowns. The quarterback draw was a frequent call, and he was second only to Randall Cunningham that year as the most-feared running quarterback.

Now, even Rosenbach is admitting that his running days may be over. "If I can't run, I guess it will force me to become a better passer," he says.

Considering the injury question mark and the Cardinals' tough schedule, fantasy coaches would be wise to pass on Rosenbach.

Chris Chandler will be given a chance to snap his eight-game losing streak as a starter if Rosenbach can't play. Chandler lost three games with the Bucs and two with Phoenix last year.

Chandler's two touchdown passes in five starts last year gave him the lowest TD production rate of the 38 quarterbacks with at least four starts, and his completion percentage and passer rating rank him next-to-last among quarterbacks with 100 pass attempts — not the numbers the Buccaneers had in mind in 1990 when they acquired him by giving up what amounted to the second overall pick of this year's draft. They cut their losses by waiving him at midseason.



▲ Timm Rosenbach missed the entire '91 season.

The starter for most of last year, Tom Tupa, was left unprotected and signed with Indianapolis.

RUNNING BACK. Back in 1929, the Cardinals' Ernie Nevers set what is the NFL's oldest existing record by running for six touchdowns against the Bears, back when both teams played in Chicago. Sixty two years later, it took the Cardinal team an entire 16-game season to get six touchdowns on the ground.

The offensive line should reap much of the blame, failing to open holes for 1990 Pro Bowler Johnny Johnson, who averaged 3.4 yards a carry en route to only 666 yards.

Johnson's a smooth back with deceptive size and speed, and he's an underrated threat catching passes. Last year he took a swing pass 51 yards for a touchdown against Philadelphia. It's a credit to him that in all the turmoil at Phoenix last year, he was able to score six of the team's 16 offensive touchdowns. Fears that Anthony Thompson might get all the short-yardage action were squelched last year. Johnson scored four of the five TD plunges.

Still nagging, however, is the possibility Johnson will be a holdout. He was a seventh-round draft pick in 1990, but will be seeking Pro Bowl-type bucks. The contract negotiations could get ugly.

Thompson, used sparingly last year, reportedly wants to be traded, though it's unlikely Phoenix could get much for him. He has outside-runner size (215 pounds) with inside-runner speed (long run 22 yards).

He is capable of starting for a fantasy team only when Johnson isn't playing.

Like Thompson, Larry Centers was drafted before Johnson in 1990. He is almost strictly a third-and-long back. He caught 19 passes and carried the ball only 14 times last year.

RECEIVER. Randal Hill wears Roy Green's old number (81), but judging from his play in his rookie season, he won't be compiling stats to match those of the former Cardinal star.

The only reason Hill was taken by the Dolphins with the 23rd pick of last year's draft was he ran a 4..34 40-yard dash at the combine, the fastest time of all the players tested. But he's never stood out on the field.

Look at Hill's stats at the University of Miami. He was a three-year starter, yet never had a 60-yard reception or returned a kickoff for a touchdown. He scored only 11 career TDs, three in his senior year. The longest of his 43 receptions during his rookie year with Phoenix was 31 yards.

Hill will likely be the Cardinals' third most productive receiver behind Ernie Jones and Ricky Proehl.

Jones, a seventh-round pick in '88, isn't stopwatch fast, but he always seems to lead the team in yards per catch. His 15.7 average last year was ninth among the 54 wideouts with 40-plus catches. In his first year as a full-time starter, Jones came within 43 yards of a 1,000-yard season and caught four of the team's 10 TD passes.

Proehl led all rookies in receptions in 1990. However, his production went backwards last year when Timm Rosenbach was replaced by Tom Tupa, Stan Gelbaugh and Chris Chandler.

A Cardinal tight end scored for the first time since 1988 last year when tackle eligible Willie Williams caught a 3-yard TD pass against Philadelphia. The actual tight end, Walter Reeves, has caught only 27 passes in three years.

Bugel signed unprotected Butch Rolle and promised him a starting spot at H-back, where he'll displace Tim Jorden. Rolle scored on 10 of his 11 receptions at Buffalo over the last five years.

KICKER. Plan B signee Greg Davis became the first Cardinal kicker to convert 70 percent of his field goal attempts since Jim Bakken in 1976. The former Falcon hit 21 of 30 field goals, with four of the misses coming on attempts outside 51 yards.

1991 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

Passing	Att	Comp	Yards	Pct	TD	Int	'90 TD	'89 TD
Tupa	315	165	2053	52.4	6	13	0	3
Chandler (Tot.)	154	78	846	50.6	5	10	1	2
Cardinals	492	254	3039	51.6	10	25	16	17
Opp.	447	268	3069	60.0	12	17	29	24

Rushing	Att	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD	'90 TD	'89 TD
Johnson	196	666	3.4	21	4	5	-
Thompson	126	376	3.0	22	1	4	-
Cardinals	391	1295	3.3	22	6	13	10
Opp.	493	2136	4.3	t60	27	20	12

Receiving	No	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD	'90 TD	'89 TD
Jones	61	957	15.7	53	4	4	3
Proehl	55	766	13.9	t62	2	4	-
R.Hill	43	495	11.5	t31	1	-	-
Johnson	29	255	7.8	t51	2	0	-
Cardinals	254	3039	12.0	t62	10	16	17
Opp.	268	3069	11.5	43	12	29	24

Kicking	XP-A	FG-A	Lg	Pts	'90 Pts	'89 Pts
Davis	19/19	21/30	52	82	106	94
Opp.	41/43	15/23	48	86	96	127

Although Davis ranks next-to-last in field goal accuracy among active kickers with 100 or more attempts, he has great power, actually leading the league with seven field goals from 50-plus yards over the last three years. Among the eight kickers with 10 or more threes from that range, only Davis (7-of-14) and Miami's Pete Stoyanovich have been able to connect on 50 percent.

Davis' range isn't good enough, however, to offset the inept Phoenix offense. He finished ranked 22nd in kicking points last year.

DEFENSE. Phoenix was the NFL's worst team against the run last year, allowing 27 touchdowns — 15 more than the average of the other teams. Paradoxically, their pass defense was outstanding; the Cards allowed a league-low 12 TD passes and had 17 interceptions even though the secondary operated without the benefit of decent pass rush (25 sacks). Phoenix had a respectable 38 takeaways and three TDs on fumble and interception returns, but most of that production came in the first two games.

	at Rams 24-14	at Phil. 26-10	at Wash. 0-34	Dall. 9-17	N.E. 24-10	at Gnts. 9-20	at Minn. 7-34	Atl. 16-10	Minn. 0-28	at Dall. 7-27	Gnts. 14-21	at S.F. 10-14	Phil. 14-34	Wash. 14-20	at Den. 19-24	N.O. 3-27
Tupa	10-18-0-124 1 run, 28	6-19-1-218 51	13-24-3-120	24-38-0-242	17-28-1-312 17,15,62	23-40-2-230	21-36-0-240	9-23-1-139 31	12-30-2-123	15-34-2-130	15-25-1-175	-	-	-	-	-
Chandler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3-6-0-28	15-32-0-194 45	7-12-2-67
Johnson	heel Probable	19-54 51 catch	8-27	24-93	8-22 15 catch	14-73	8-18	25-83	7-10	19-89 1	14-37 3	12-32	4-17	13-48 1,3	13-37	8-26
Thompson	29-60	8-16	5-17	4-6	26-98	5-20	4-7 1	8-46	6-26	1-0	3-3	3-6	10-35	1-1	6-7	7-28
E.Jones	2-38 28	2-62	3-35	8-92	8-145 17	5-65	6-67	3-31	3-53	-	5-99	3-55 26	2-15	4-76	4-84 45	3-40
Proehl	5-69	2-75	1-20	3-44	4-107 62	6-54	3-41	2-43	3-34	4-47	4-46 34	6-59	2-19	3-19	4-60	4-29
R.Hill	-	-	1-11	3-22	1-15	6-65	2-28	2-47 31	3-39	4-40	2-21	4-38	7-80	1-15	2-9	5-65
Davis	32 miss: 52	52,22,28,42 -	- miss: 54	32,32,29 miss: 49	47 miss: 41	52,48,29 miss: 54	- miss: 44	28,51,49 -	- -	- -	- -	35 -	- miss: 43	- -	33,45,28,38 miss: 52	38 -
Others	85 fumble return	7 fumble return									Gelbaugh 34 throw	Gelbaugh 26 throw	Gelbaugh 3 to Williams 35 int. return	Gelbaugh QB'd		

Pittsburgh Steelers

Pittsburgh's offense hasn't been ranked better than 20th in the league the last three years. Interesting, therefore, to note that of the nine new NFL coaches this season, the Steelers picked the only one coming from the defensive side of the football — Bill Cowher, defensive coordinator in Kansas City since 1989.

During his tenure at KC, Cowher's teams allowed an AFC-low 16.6 points a game. However, even if the Steelers had been able to match that kind of defensive performance last year, they still wouldn't have been able to win the AFC Central because of an impotent offense.

Cowher has ditched offensive coordinator Joe Walton and his ridiculous tight end offense. Giants assistant Ron Erhardt has been brought in to install a Giant/Chief-style offense with big backs running behind a big line.

Trouble is, the Steelers don't have the offensive linemen to make that system work this year. Cowher and Erhardt inherit the small, quick linemen of Chuck Noll's regime. "Our game is different. We want road graders," Erhardt says.

Not only do the Steelers lack offensive line personnel, they also have question marks at quarterback, running back and wide receiver.

It doesn't look promising.

If the Steelers squeak out another 7-9 season, it will only be due to the sixth-easiest schedule in the league.

QUARTERBACK. In the quarterback derby between Neil O'Donnell and Bubby Brister, we'll give O'Donnell a slight edge. The former Maryland quarterback is four years younger, healthy, and he outplayed Brister last year.

But that doesn't mean there will be a good fantasy quarterback in Pittsburgh this year. The Steelers were one of only nine NFL teams to have 20 or more passing touchdowns last year, but that will change in a hurry as the team moves to a power running game. Twenty of the team's 28 TDs came through the air last year, a ratio that will certainly decline.

In other words, maybe the O'Donnell vs. Brister quarterback debate isn't worth debating. It's likely that neither one of them will be of any value to fantasy teams.

Brister, who had knee surgery in February, won't necessarily even be ready to go at the start of training camp. He's unsigned and says he won't report unless he's guaranteed the starting job. Not the best way to impress your new boss.

Brister didn't produce the kind of numbers last year that guarantee starting status. In eight games, he threw only nine touchdown passes and was picked off nine times, with two of those returned for touchdowns. O'Donnell, who also started eight games, had 11 TDs and only seven interceptions, and he threw for 600 more yards than Brister.

O'Donnell, who outplayed Brister in the preseason, at least has some potential, since he's just a third-year quarterback who didn't even play as a rookie. At 6-foot-3 and 221 pounds, he's textbook size for an NFL quarterback.

Brister didn't play with the aggressiveness or charisma that won him the starting job in 1988. Notice that back in 1988, Brister wasn't afraid to tuck the ball under his arm and run. He scrambled for 209 yards and six touchdowns that year — including a couple of courageous dives over defenders at the flag. His rushing stats last year? A meager 11 carries for 17 insignificant yards.

▲ **Neil O'Donnell will likely oust Bubby Brister at quarterback.**

Brister spent most of the past two years complaining about how the Steeler offense was too complicated. Now he's going to miss all the minicamps and perhaps some of training camp while Cowher implements the new offense. It doesn't look promising.

Maybe the only edge Brister has on O'Donnell is his sense of humor. He started his contract negotiations by asking for $2 million a year for three years.

RUNNING BACK. One of the big surprises on draft day was the Steelers didn't spend any of their high picks on a running back. That means the load should be shared by Merril Hoge and Barry Foster.

Hoge, the team's most productive back the last four years, annually runs for about 700 yards and catches around 45 passes. But there's talk about moving him to H-back because of his limited speed. Hoge has averaged 3.6 yards a carry the last three seasons, but at 230 pounds he might fit into the short-yardage picture.

Moving Hoge would make Foster is an interesting prospect. In his second year out of Arkansas, Foster moved from fullback to tailback and gained 428 yards in the season's first seven games before suffering an ankle injury that sidelined him for essentially the rest of the season. He's one of the few backs in the league who has averaged better than 5 yards a carry in each of the last two years.

Like Tim Worley in the Pittsburgh tailback spot before him, Foster showed a tendency to cough up the ball last season. He fumbled the ball five times in only 105 carries, making him the worst fumbler in the league among starting running backs.

Worley was suspended for a minimum of one year after violating the league's drug policy. The '89 first-rounder was ineligible for six games in 1991 after failing a second drug test, and he received his one-year ban after skipping two mandatory drug tests in February.

Worley's suspension opens the door for backup-types Warren Williams and Robert Drummond. Williams played sparingly last year, seeing most of his action after Foster went down. Williams did lead the team with four rushing TDs. Drummond is a Plan B pickup from Philadelphia.

With this lack of depth in the backfield, even seventh-rounder Scottie Graham from Ohio State has to be considered a potential contributor.

RECEIVER. In the two years of the Joe Walton offense, an amazing 19 of 40 touchdown passes went to tight ends. You won't see an offense rely that heavily on the tight end again anytime soon.

Eric Green, the gigantic 270-pound tight end the Steelers drafted out of Liberty in 1990, has been the focus of the pass offense in his two seasons. Last year he scored seven touchdowns even though he didn't play in the final five games after breaking his ankle.

Though he's massive, Green can move with the ball after the catch, averaging 14.2 yards on his 41 receptions last year. The Steelers will use their wide receivers more this year, and thye have a good second tight end in Adrian Cooper. However, Green is talented enough to rank among the top-scoring tight ends in the league.

Louis Lipps and Dwight Stone were the starters at wide receiver last year but may be replaced by second-year players Ernie Mills and Jeff Graham. The two rookies held out last year and ended up combining for only five catches.

There are doubts about how much longer Lipps can play. His longest reception the past two years is only 37 yards, and he's dropped a few balls. If he's not revitalized in the new offense, his career will be over.

Dwight Stone gets criticized for dropping passes and running erratic routes, but the converted running back made almost all of the team's big plays last year. He and Michael Haynes of Atlanta were the only full-time wide receivers who averaged better than 20 yards a catch, and Stone's five TD plays covered a league-high average of 59 yards.

Rookie Charles Davenport (fourth round) won't be ready to challenge for a starting spot anytime soon. At North Carolina State, he played quarterback until halfway through his junior season.

KICKER. Gary Anderson had an off year, hitting only 23 of 33 field goals and having his streak of 56 straight successful attempts inside 35 yards snapped by a costly 24-yard miss at Denver.

Anderson is one of the best in the business at converting short and medium kicks, but he has been ineffective from long range in recent years. He connected on only 1 of 6 attempts from beyond 50 yards.

1991 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

Passing	Att	Comp	Yards	Pct	TD	Int	'90 TD	'89 TD
O'Donnell	286	156	1963	54.5	11	7	0	-
Brister	190	103	1350	54.2	9	9	20	9
Steelers	476	259	3313	54.4	20	16	20	10
Opp.	535	334	62.4	3843	21	19	9	17

Rushing	Att	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD	'90 TD	'89 TD
Hoge	165	610	3.7	24	2	7	8
Foster	96	488	5.1	t56	1	1	-
Williams	57	262	4.6	21	4	3	1
Steelers	394	1627	4.1	t56	8	11	17
Opp.	466	1582	3.4	33	14	13	16

Receiving	No	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD	'90 TD	'89 TD
Lipps	55	671	12.2	35	2	3	6
Hoge	49	379	7.7	25	1	3	0
Green	41	582	14.2	49	6	7	-
Stone	32	649	20.3	t89	5	1	0
Steelers	259	3313	12.8	t89	20	20	10
Opp.	334	3843	11.5	t66	21	9	17

Kicking	XP-A	FG-A	Lg	Pts	'90 Pts	'89 Pts
Anderson	31/31	23/33	54	100	92	91
Opp.	38/38	26/41	50	116	80	91

With the Steelers' offense struggling, Anderson hasn't been able to crack the top 10 in scoring among placekickers since 1988. Don't expect that to change this season.

DEFENSE. Pittsburgh's defense has been okay in recent years, but Cowher is remodeling it anyway. He'll switch the Steelers to the 3-4 defense that's identical to what Kansas City uses, with Greg Lloyd as the Derrick Thomas-style outside linebacker.

The Steelers managed to generate four touchdowns on defensive and special teams play last year, although one of those came when New England punter Shawn McCarthy kicked the ball off the butt of one of his blockers in the end zone. Pittsburgh has some excellent secondary people (Rod Woodson, Carnell Lake) but was only average in takeaways and sacks last year.

	S.D. 26-20	at Buff. 34-52	N.E. 20-6	at Phil. 14-23	at Ind. 21-3	Gnts. 20-23	Sea. 7-27	at Clev. 14-17	at Den. 13-20	at Cin. 33-27	Wash. 14-41	Hou. 26-14	at Dall. 10-20	at Hou. 6-31	Cin. 17-10	Clev. 17-10
O'Donnell	1-4-0-69 89	-	-	-	1-1-0-5	11-21-0-152 16,5	14-22-1-184 57	19-35-2-221 1 run	18-33-1-204 23	24-39-0-309 35,12,26	23-36-1-289 5,40	12-29-1-155 43	17-36-0-167	16-30-1-188	-	0-0-0-0
Brister	13-21-2-189 33	15-29-0-134 (conc-P)	22-29-0-262 32	15-25-0-262 8,12	13-16-2-181 21,24	6-16-1-97	hamstring Probable	knee Probable	-	knee Probable	knee Probable	-	-	-	15-28-2-184 47,19	7-26-0-113 65
Hoge	13-41	10-32 1	6-13	7-15 12 catch	9-42 1	8-73	6-22	12-48	13-43	17-48	7-29	13-54	9-9	8-18	16-79	11-44
Foster	17-78	9-121 56	14-32	9-52	12-49 24 catch	7-60	7-36	ankle Questnble	ankle Questnble	ankle Probable	4-4	16-60	1-(4)	ankle doubtful	ankle doubtful	-
Williams	-	4-(-1) 1	-	-	5-17	-	-	9-26 1	11-63	4-9	-	5-15 1	8-59 3	4-39	6-35	1-0
Lipps	1-14	3-29	7-86	-	-	5-64 16	3-28	5-69	5-81	4-47 12	4-59	3-24	5-54	6-71	3-33	1-12
Stone	4-124 89	-	3-31	-	2-16	2-78	2-67 57	3-53	1-11	3-22	4-84 40	2-48 43	3-39	-	-	3-76 65
Green	2-30	3-31	4-63 32	8-158 8	3-42 21	4-58 5	1-18	3-25	3-34 23	4-50 26	6-73	heel Probable	broken foot (IR) Out	broken foot (IR) Out	broken foot (IR) Out	broken foot (IR) Out
Anderson	38,29,31,39	25,27	49,32	-	-	26,39	-	-	26,39	44,46	-	20,28,33,24	42	54,36	47	34
	-	miss: 50	-	-	-	-	-	miss: 52,52	miss: 24	miss: 37	-	-	miss: 51	-	miss: 39	miss: 46,50,25
Others	Calloway 33 catch	57 int return	punt recovered in end zone							38 fumb return Mills 35 catch	Cooper 5 catch				Cooper 47 catch Cash 19 catch	57 int return

San Diego Chargers

If you're one of those people who puts a lot of stock in schedule difficulty in making your draft choices, your ears had to perk up when they announced San Diego's opponents this year.

Rebounding from the fourth hardest schedule in the NFL last year,. this time around the Chargers' schedule is the easiest in the league. The home opponents, besides the AFC West, are Indianapolis, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and Tampa Bay. The road opponents: Indianapolis, Phoenix, Cleveland and Houston.

Considering that Seattle has a first-year quarterback, San Diego has a legitimate shot at its first .500 season since 1985 (the Chargers were 8-7 in '87, but won three strike games).

The Chargers were the best of the bad NFL teams last year. Three of their four wins were against teams with winning records, including that big 38-30 win over Miami that cost the Dolphins a playoff spot. They also beat the Saints and Raiders.

"Maybe some people outside the game feel that they're a bad team, but no one who has a real knowledge of their personnel will tell you that," says Kansas City General Manager Carl Peterson.

QUARTERBACK. John Friesz got passing grades for his work as a first-year starter, but it will be his second year that determines whether he's NFL material or just another link in the long chain of feeble quarterbacks to follow Dan Fouts.

Friesz, one of 10 quarterbacks to start all 16 games, impressed coaches enough in training camp and preseason that starter Billy Joe Tolliver was abruptly shipped to Atlanta a week before the season started. But as a first-year starter, Friesz's responsibilities were limited — he wasn't even required to call audibles. He also wasn't asked to throw downfield often. Running back Ronnie Harmon led the team in receptions, and H-back Craig McEwen caught another 37 dump-offs. Only Jeff Kemp, Stan Gelbaugh and Chris Chandler had lower yards-per-attempt averages last year.

"We're going to expect more from Friesz this year," new coach Bobby Ross says.

Friesz finished with only 12 touchdowns in 16 games. A little disappointing was the fact that his numbers didn't improve significantly as the season wore on, even though San Diego won three of its final seven games.

Friesz established in one year in the league that he's never going to be a threat running the ball. In an entire season off action, he carried only 11 times for a measly 18 yards, with no touchdowns. He had fewer yards rushing than slugfooted quarterbacks like Dan Marino or Bernie Kosar. It looks like Friesz could go his entire career without taking the ball in on his own.

Friesz didn't gain any fantasy bonus point for 50-plus yard bombs either, with the majority of his touchdowns coming from inside 10 yards. A year of seasoning and the new offense may help, however.

General Manager Bobby Beathard is reportedly high on Jeff Graham, who he originally drafted when he was the GM at Washington. Graham is expected to replace journeyman Bob Gagliano as the No. 2 quarterback. Former Southern Cal quarterback Pat O'Hara was signed from Tampa Bay through Plan B.

RUNNING BACK. Bobby Beathard has that reputation of being one of football's best general managers, but you have to wonder what he was thinking when he spent a second-round pick on Eric Bieniemy last year — especially when 12 picks later he felt it was necessary to cough up the team's 1992 first rounder to the Redskins to get Michigan State offensive guard Eric Moten.

Bieniemy, of course, carried the ball only three times last year because the Chargers already had three talented backs fighting for playing time in Dan Henning's one-back offense — bruisers Marion Butts and Rod Bernstine and third-down back Ronnie Harmon.

▲ **Rod Bernstine stills wears his old tight end's number.**

Bieniemy will get more opportunities this season as the Chargers go to a two-back offense, but it's still hard to see where he fits in — especially as a scorer. Rod Bernstine and Marion Butts, both over 240 pounds, are clearly the goal-line guys. Harmon might be the best receiving back in football short of Thurman Thomas, the guy who made him expendable in Buffalo.

At the minicamp, new coach Bobby Ross had Bieniemy and Butts working in the backfield, with Bernstine again moved to H-back.

Whatever the results of Ross' experiments, look for Butts to reemerge as the closest thing to a feature back after hurting himself in a lengthy holdout. Even though he's a two-time Pro Bowler, Butts is still getting seventh-round money.

Butts and Bernstine split time last year, with Butts gaining 834 yards and Bernstine rumbling for 766. The previous season Butts gained an AFC-high 1,225 yards. He would have won the rushing title if he hadn't missed the final two games with a foot injury.

Bernstine poses the biggest threat to cut into Butts' touchdown haul. The Chargers really like the way the 6-foot-3 converted tight end can wade through the pile in short-yardage situations. He'll need to be signed to a new contract, however, and this talk about moving him to H-back is worrisome.

Harmon was voted the team's Most Valuable Player last year. Not only did he lead the team in receptions, but he averaged a league-high

6.1 yards a carry on his 89 rushing attempts. He's one of the best all-purpose pass-catching backs in the league. The only reason the Chargers were able to get him from Buffalo through Plan B was because the Bills have a pretty decent pass-catching back — Thurman Thomas.

RECEIVER. It used to be that the only proven wideout in the Charger receiving corps was Anthony Miller. Now, even he's not a certainty.

Miller injured his knee in the team's April minicamp and may not be ready for the start of training camp when the team goes to work on its new offense; and even before his arthroscopic knee surgery, Miller was a question mark.

Bothered by off-the-field problems, including a paternity suit, the fourth-year receiver had his worst season as a pro, dropping numerous balls and finishing with only three touchdowns and half as much yardage as he racked up in 1989. The Chargers reportedly offered to trade the former Tennessee Volunteer straight across for Falcon rookie Mike Pritchard.

Still, it's not impossible to envision the scenario where Miller comes back to post a season in the 1,000-yard, eight-TD range. Improved play by quarterback John Friesz would obviously help.

The receiver spot opposite Miller, as usual, is wide open. The half dozen contenders include Nate Lewis, Yancey Thigpen, Shawn Jefferson, Erik Affholter and rookie Ray Ethridge — the unpolished third-rounder with CFL experience. Lewis held the job last year and caught 42 balls, including three for touchdowns.

Youngsters Derrick Walker and Duane Young will battle for the tight end position. Give Walker the edge going into training camp because he caught 20 passes last year, although his sole touchdown was called back.

With the switch to the new offense, H-back Craig McEwen might not even make the team. He had 37 catches and three touchdowns last year.

KICKER. John Carney wasn't only one of the NFL's least accurate field goal kickers last year: He also had the bad habit of flubbing critical kicks, with misses that could have won or tied five games.

It won't be a surprise if 12th-rounder Carlos Huerta is able to win the job. He was extremely accurate at the University of Miami, hitting over 80 percent of his attempts. He capped his college career with a in the Orange Bowl against Nebraska.

Carney also had a 54-yarder last year — the game-winner against Seattle — but hit only 18-of-29 attempts overall. His 19-of-21 accuracy in 1990 is somewhat misleading, because the vast majority of those kicks were inside 40 yards.

Considering San Diego's lightweight schedule, the winner of this kicking duel is capable of finishing just outside the top 10 scoring placekickers.

DEFENSE. The Chargers got stung for 22 touchdowns through the air and ranked 22nd against the pass last season. Those were about the worst totals in the league, considering that San Diego plays in the AFC West, where nobody throws the ball.

One of the big reasons for the leaky air defense was the lack of a pass rush (23 sacks). New defensive coordinator Bill Arnsparger will switch the unit to a 4-3. The Chargers made his defense the top priority of their draft, taking a defensive end and a safety with their first two picks.

The San Diego special teams have been among the league's finest for the past couple years. That may change now that special teams guru Larry Pasquale has gone to the Eagles.

1991 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

Passing	Att	Comp	Yards	Pct	TD	Int	'90 TD	'89 TD
Friesz	487	262	2896	53.8	12	15	1	-
Chargers	511	272	2983	53.2	13	16	18	15
Opp.	503	300	3628	59.6	22	19	22	15

Rushing	Att	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD	'90 TD	'89 TD
Butts	193	834	4.3	44	6	8	9
Bernstine	159	766	4.8	t63	8	4	1
Harmon	89	544	6.1	33	1	0	0
Chargers	464	2248	4.8	t63	16	14	13
Opp.	429	1669	3.9	t63	15	10	13

Receiving	No	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD	'90 TD	'89 TD
Harmon	59	555	9.4	36	1	2	4
Miller	44	649	14.8	58	3	7	11
Lewis	42	554	13.2	t49	3	1	-
McEwen	37	399	10.8	30	3	3	0
Taylor	24	218	9.1	27	0	0	0
Walker	20	134	6.7	14	0	1	-
Chargers	272	2983	11.0	58	13	18	15
Opp.	300	3628	12.1	t89	22	22	15

Kicking	XP-A	FG-A	Lg	Pts	'90 Pts	'89 Pts
Carney	31/31	19/29	54	88	84	0
Opp.	37/38	23/29	54	106	81	114

	at Pitt. 20-26	at S.F. 14-34	Atl. 10-13	at Den. 19-27	K.C. 13-14	at Rdrs. 21-13	at Rams 24-30	Clev. 24-30	at Sea. 9-20	Sea. 17-14	N.O. 24-21	at Jets 3-24	Rdrs. 7-9	at K.C. 17-20	Mia. 38-30	Den. 14-17
Friesz	19-41-1-192 5	14-33-3-179 1,9	13-22-0-136 15	13-29-0-139	10-25-0-162	12-22-0-118 2	21-33-1-306 30,49	33-54-2-321 2	27-41-0-212	17-25-0-229	16-30-1-175	7-9-1-61	12-27-1-150	19-37-1-208 6	17-25-0-185 25,12	12-34-3-123 1
Bernstine	12-50 11 throw	15-73	12-78	18-103	26-112 2	19-66 4	9-57 1	9-44	hip Questnble	back (IR) Out	back (IR) Out	4-26	5-11 1	9-25	13-104 5,1,63	8-17 1
Butts	5-6	3-29	8-63	11-49 27	10-45	11-51 2 catch,1	5-7	16-54 2	23-76	20-86 17,1	15-92 5	9-63	16-44	20-77	14-46	7-46
Lewis	6-74 11	1-7	2-26	4-47	1-9	-	4-74 49	5-72	4-30	1-11	2-38 95 KO ret.	1-6	1-31	6-79 6	2-27	2-23
Miller	5-54	3-75 9	2-19 15	1-6	1-17	-	7-149 30	8-82	8-89	5-124	3-33	1-11	-	Quad Questnble	-	-
McEwen	2-13	4-31 1	3-24	2-14	1-12	2-18	1-4	2-29	-	2-41	3-31	3-37	2-50	3-31	5-54 12	2-10 1
Carney	48,35 miss: 36	- -	39 miss: 53,47,47	41,43,43,36 -	26,37 miss: 36	- -	27 -	27 miss: 49	29,24,36 miss: 56	54 -	19 -	53 miss: 46	- miss: 44	27 miss: 47	35 -	- -
Others	Jefferson 5 catch							Hendrickson 2 catch; Harmon 11 run			Hendrickson 3 run; 95 KO return			71 int return	Harmon 25 catch	

San Francisco 49ers

With or without Joe Montana, San Francisco is a Super Bowl contender.

The 49ers closed out last season as the NFL's hottest team, winning six in a row — including three blowouts of playoff teams. Every game they lost went down to the wire, including a Hail Mary defeat at Atlanta.

Even without Montana, San Francisco finished third in the NFL in scoring, behind only Super Bowl finalists Washington and Buffalo. The Houston Oilers were the only team in with more passing yards.

If the 49ers had made the playoffs, they would have been the one team with a chance to beat the Redskins in Washington. The oddsmakers agree, and make the teams co-favorites to win Super Bowl XXVII.

QUARTERBACK. The initial report on Joe Montana's right elbow is not good...for the rest of the NFL.

With a large media contingent watching, Montana threw the ball accurately and with good velocity at the 49ers' minicamp in April. The reattached tendon is actually stronger than it has ever been, doctors say, and the 49ers were impressed enough that they tried to trade Steve Young to the Chiefs and Raiders.

The 36-year-old Montana, if he comes back, will be the oldest starting quarterback in the league. At a fragile 195 pounds, he's missed at least one game in each of the past eight seasons. But he could still be a great pick for a fantasy franchise.

When healthy, Montana is capable of putting up the kind of fantasy numbers that can virtually carry a fantasy franchise to a playoff berth — just like Steve Young and Steve Bono did last year. Young and Bono's combined fantasy stats were better than Jim Kelly's or Mark Rypien's.

San Francisco has the best pair of wide receivers ever to play the game and a third-place schedule that's soft by 49er standards. So even though drafting Montana requires that the franchise back up that pick by spending a mid-rounder on Young (or Bono if Young is traded), Montana is definitely an early round fantasy choice.

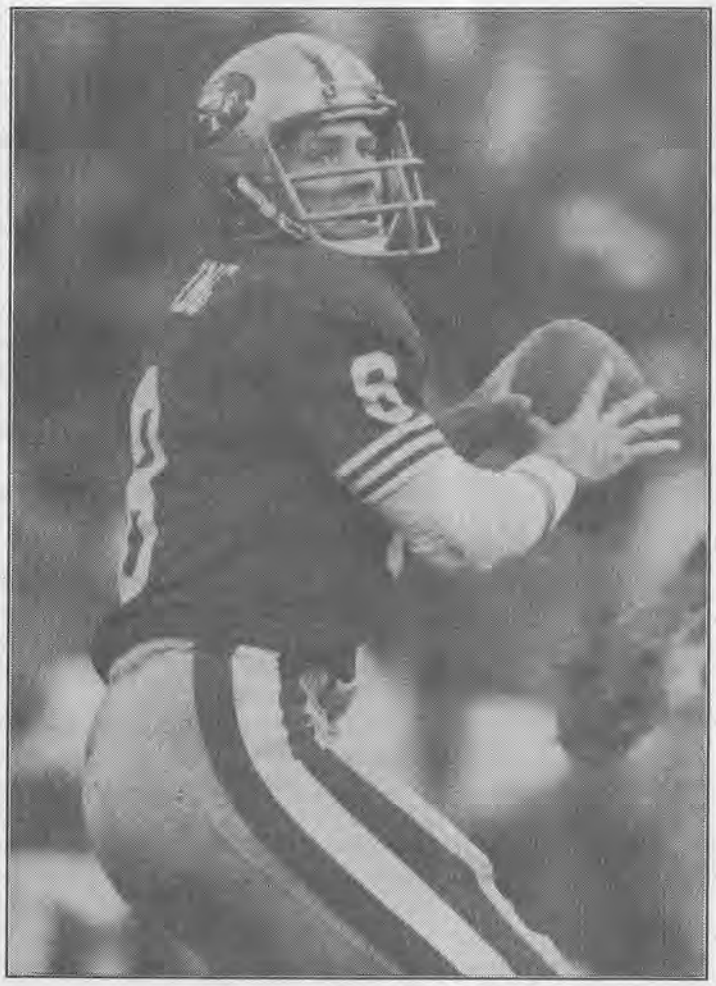
Young was a disappointing 5-5 as a starter last year, but he put up fantasy numbers faster than anyone in the league. In 10 games, Young ran for four touchdowns and threw 17 TD strikes, with seven of those coming from beyond 50 yards. With that kind of production, Young was more valuable on a per start basis than even Warren Moon or Randall Cunningham were in 1990, when they produced a combined 63 TD passes and seven touchdowns.

While Young isn't even a first-string quarterback, he should be drafted before about half of the NFL starters. The ordinary stats put up by a Ken O'Brien or Vinny Testaverde are easy to pick up off a waiver wire — especially in leagues with 8-10 teams. Young could win a team a fantasy championship if Montana gets hurt.

Bono, who also put up good fantasy numbers, was so impressive in leading the team on its six-game win streak that many teammates feel he's a better quarterback than Young. Bono threw three touchdown passes in three straight games — something Montana's only been able to do once in his career. If Young is traded, Bono becomes that valuable middle-round pick. "He's just like Joe," tackle Steve Wallace says. "He doesn't say much but he gets the job done."

RUNNING BACK. For the fifth time in the last six years, the 49ers used a first-, second- or third- round pick in an attempt to find the running back to replace Roger Craig. Those fantasy coaches considering investing a pick on this year's savior — Florida State's Amp Lee — should bear in mind that the last four Messiahs produced a combined one touchdown in their rookie seasons.

Terrence Flagler was a first-round bust. The jury is still out on Keith Henderson, Dexter Carter and Ricky Watters, but their combined talents weren't impressive enough to deter the 49ers from using a second-round pick on Lee.



▲ **Steve Young produced huge fantasy numbers last year.**

We're not endorsing Lee as anything but a long shot for fantasy success for the simple fact that it's extremely rare for a second-rounder to have anything more than a minimal impact. The last 11 running backs drafted in the second round have all been fantasy air balls.

Lee doesn't look like a knockout prospect on paper. He's too small (195 pounds) for goal-line duty, doesn't have great speed and in college showed a dislike for running inside. Lee didn't even run for 1,000 yards last year while playing for Seminoles — one of the most powerful teams in the college game.

A better fantasy choice than Lee is veteran fullback Tom Rathman. The 232-pound fullback doesn't carry the ball often, but he's usually the choice in short-yardage situations. Rathman has scored 13 touchdowns the past two years, all on 1- and 2-yard runs.

Harry Sydney may have become in the first 32-year-old in league history to triple his career touchdown total in one season. The former USFL and CFL player scored his fourth through 10th touchdowns but carried the ball sparingly.

At 170 pounds, Carter is too small for anything but spot duty. He did score all four of his TDs in the last five games. The 49ers tried to feature Keith Henderson at the start of the year, but scaled back his opportunities as the year wore on. Watters and fellow rookie Sheldon Canley spent the year on injured reserve.

1991 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

Passing	Att	Comp	Yards	Pct	TD	Int	'90 TD	'89 TD
Young	279	180	2517	64.5	17	8	2	8
Bono	237	141	1617	59.5	11	4	0	1
49ers	522	325	4167	62.3	29	12	28	35
Opp.	499	267	3254	53.5	16	12	17	15

Rushing	Att	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD	'90 TD	'89 TD
Henderson	137	561	4.1	25	2	0	1
Young	66	415	6.3	21	4	0	2
D.Carter	85	379	4.5	t53	2	1	-
Sydney	57	245	4.3	52	5	2	0
49ers	440	1861	4.2	t53	19	12	14
Opp.	399	1512	3.8	37	8	7	9

Receiving	No	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD	'90 TD	'89 TD
Rice	80	1206	15.1	t73	14	13	17
Taylor	64	1011	15.8	t97	9	7	10
Rathman	34	286	8.4	32	0	0	1
Henderson	30	303	10.1	23	0	0	0
Jones	27	417	15.4	41	0	5	4
Sherrard	24	296	12.3	31	2	2	5
D.Carter	23	253	11.0	26	1	0	-
49ers	325	4167	12.8	t97	29	28	35
Opp.	267	3254	12.2	51	16	17	15

Kicking	XP-A	FG-A	Lg	Pts	'90 Pts	'89 Pts
Cofer	49/50	14/28	50	91	111	136
Opp.	23/25	22/25	52	89	83	95

RECEIVER. Joe Montana's right elbow will get all the press during training camp, but equally important to 49er hopes of rebounding this season is getting wide receivers Jerry Rice and John Taylor signed.

Last year, Steve Young signed a two-year deal worth $4.5 million. If you're paying your backup quarterback $2.25 million a year, what do you pay the best wide receiver in the history of the game and a consistent Pro Bowler? Rice showed again last year that he doesn't need to have Montana throwing the ball be productive. In 1986, when Jeff Kemp quarterbacked half the season Rice scored 15 TDs. In 1991, Rice pulled in 14 scoring passes from Steve Young and Steve Bono, with five of those coming from beyond 50 yards.

Taylor usually doesn't get picked soon enough on draft day because he's overshadowed by Rice. When you consider that seven of Taylor's 26 TDs in the last three years have come from beyond 50 yards, only two wide receivers in the league — Rice and Gary Clark — have outscored him. Taylor is a steal in the fourth round of a draft.

Mike Sherrard could be a decent pick in the event Rice or Taylor get hurt or holdout. Tony Hargain, Ron Lewis and Odessa Turner are also available.

Tight end Brent Jones could be a wise selection. He led all tight ends in receiving yards and scored four touchdowns in 1990, but he missed half of last year with a knee injury. The other tight end, Jamie Williams, is a Roberto Duran type — hands of stone. He caught his first TD pass since 1988 in the final game of the season.

KICKER. Mike Cofer was the worst placekicker in the NFL last year, but he could be a late-round steal in fantasy drafts.

The fifth-year kicker was awful last year, hitting only 14 of 28 attempts; and some of his short-range misses were particularly costly. If Cofer hadn't blown four field goals in the 30-39 yard range against Minnesota and Atlanta, the 49ers would have been in the playoffs.

If he had kicked with his usual accuracy, Cofer would have finished at least seventh in scoring among kickers. Instead, he ended with only 89 points. Part of his problem last year stemmed from working with a new snapper and holder. He's certainly capable of ironing out his difficulties and ranking among the league leaders again.

DEFENSE. They don't have the reputation of the Eagles or Saints, but the 49er defense has been the best in the NFL over the last five years. San Francisco has finished in the top five against the run six straight years, and is the only team in the league that hasn't allowed 30 touchdowns in any of the last three years.

There are some holes looming, however. Three of the four secondary spots are problem positions, and the 49ers will likely have to start the season without either of their pass-rushing linebackers. Charles Haley had rotator cuff surgery, and Tim Harris faces a six-game suspension for drunk driving. Even with those guys, the pass rush faded last year.

	at Gnts. 14-16	S.D. 34-14	at Minn. 14-17	Rams 27-10	at Rdrs. 6-12	Atl. 34-39	Det. 35-3	at Phil. 23-7	at Atl. 14-17	at N.O. 3-10	Phoe. 14-10	at Rams 33-10	N.O. 38-24	at Sea. 24-22	K.C. 28-14	Chi. 52-14
Young	12-22-1-162 5 run,73	26-36-0-348 32,1,70	19-27-1-275 15,21	21-31-0-288 12,62	18-35-2-217	22-38-3-348 6,7 runs.54,57	18-20-0-237 2,22	10-15-0-96 21	11-19-1-187 97	knee Out	knee Out	knee doubtful	knee Questnble	knee Probable	2-4-0-21	21-32-0-338 2 run,2,3,69
Bono	-	-	-	-	-	-	3-3-0-35	-	9-16-1-111 30	15-32-0-131	20-35-0-187	18-33-1-306 2	27-41-0-347 11,19,47	25-44-2-280 3,9,15	24-33-0-220 1,9,20	knee Questnble
Sydney	1-(-4)	5-23	6-15	10-70 25	2-11	3-(-3) 5	8-31 11	3-1	2-1	4-25	1-0	3-4 2 catch,1	-	2-31 3 catch	7-34	1-2 2
Rathman	2-6	3-(-1)	2-3	2-3	2-7	3-11	6-17 1,2	7-23 2	5-15	7-34	6-18 1	5-21 1	7-12 1	1-1	5-13	ribs,ankle Probable
Carter	4-8	6-13	1-(-5)	7-48	5-41	1-6	10-36	2-5	4-25	3-8	4-21	14-38 3	1-4 11 cat, 92 KO	3-14	11-81 53	9-36
Rice	1-73 73	9-150 32,70	4-85 15,21	5-99 62	3-38	7-138 57	5-35 2	2-4	6-44	4-24	3-30	4-59	9-154 47	6-67 9	7-81 1,20	5-125 3,69
Taylor	2-23	4-42 1	3-49	6-81 12	2-42	3-80 54	2-58	5-58 21	2-127 97,30	1-3	3-24	6-121	5-62 19	7-113 15	7-61 9	6-67
Sherrard	-	-	-	2-29	2-45	2-38	3-43 22	1-7	3-26	-	3-29	toe Probable	1-4	2-10	2-18	3-47 15
Cofer	- -	34,28 miss: 37,45	- miss: 35	22,47 miss: 35	23,35 -	- miss: XP	- miss: 46	45,25,50 -	- miss: 33,32,32,47	32 miss: 44	- miss: 45	39 miss: 51	42 -	50 -	- miss: 36,45	41 -
Others		Henderson 6 run									Henderson 2 run	safety	98 kickoff return			Williams 2 run Musgrave 15 pass 99 fum return

Seattle Seahawks

To fantasy coaches, the Seahawks may be the AFC's equivalent of the Phoenix Cardinals — a "hands off" team that should be completely ignored.

As Tom Flores and former London Monarch coach Larry Kennan completely rebuild and remodel Seattle's offense, which ranked only 21st in the league last year, they face some tough questions.

• Who's going to *throw* the football? The Seahawks have three quarterbacks who have started a combined seven games the last three years.

• Who's going to *carry* the football? The No. 1 tailback will probably be Rueben Mayes, who didn't even play last year and hasn't been a productive back since 1987.

• Who's going to *catch* the football? There's only one good — not great, just good — receiver on the roster and he's a probable holdout.

Seahawk fans can point to a young, tough defense, but the best this team can hope for this season is to edge out San Diego for fourth place in a tough division. However, considering the Chargers dodge the NFC East with their fifth-place schedule, even that might not be possible.

QUARTERBACK. The Seahawks used four different quarterbacks last year for the first time in the team's 15-year history. With unprotected Dave Krieg gone to Kansas City, don't be surprised to see three quarterbacks get multiple starts for the Hawks this year.

Dan McGwire and Kelly Stouffer, two of the greatest non-BYU quarterbacks in Western Athletic Conference history, will battle for the starting job in training camp, but it's hard to see either one of them lasting a 16-game season. These guys have a combined two starts in the last two years — not the kind of experience necessary for surviving against the Eagles, Redskins and on the road against the Chiefs, Giants, Broncos, Raiders and Cowboys.

Seattle's offensive line allowed 42 sacks last year and will likely be trying to work in first-rounder Ray Roberts at left tackle. So, we're thinking two quarterbacks might not be enough. Journeyman Stan Gelbaugh will probably guide the club some as well; and if he goes down, Rusty Hilger is also available.

McGwire, the 1991 first-rounder from San Diego State, lasted half a game in his only start last year completing 3 of 7 passes for 27 yards, with one interception. So give him the edge there on Stouffer, whose only start was at Atlanta, where he was 0-for-2 with one interception before being injured on a sack in the end zone.

Flores had them learning the team's new "deep ball" offense in minicamp — two young quarterbacks throwing to young, fast receivers with no NFL experience. The Seahawks don't have a good running game and the team will trail often, so expect the quarterback to throw often.

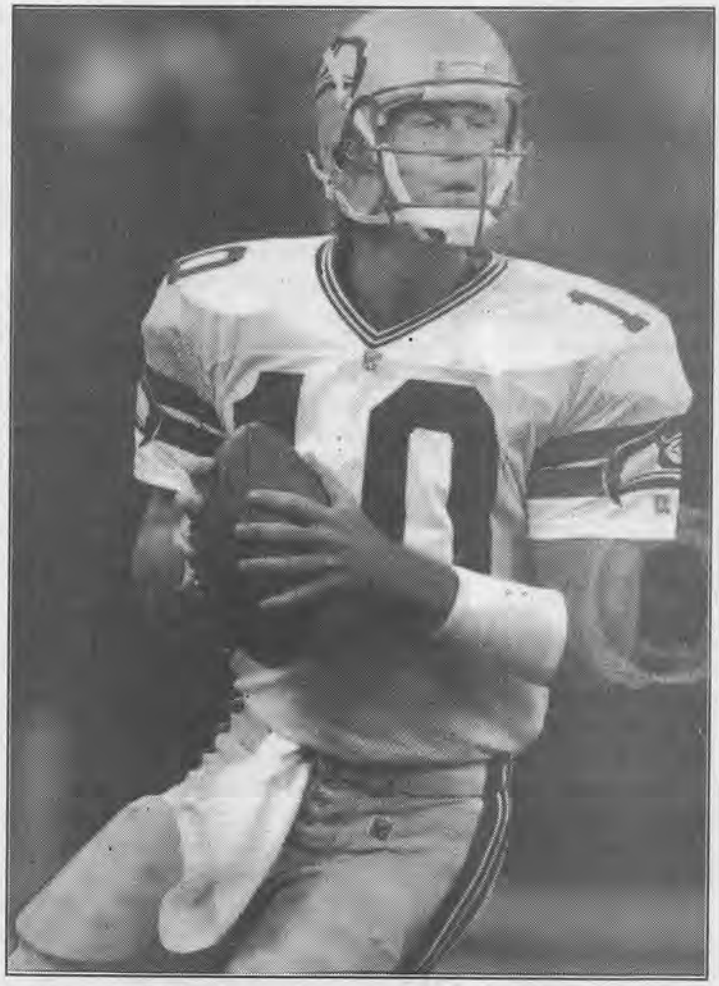
"I think the system is going to be fun," says Stouffer, a former Colorado State Ram. "It's going to cater to what Dan and I both do well — throwing the ball downfield and the ball long. It's going to be a good situation, I think."

That's optimistic thinking. But not enough to convince us to endorse any Seahawk quarterback as even a fantasy backup player.

RUNNING BACK. Chuck Knox's "Ground Chuck" running attack ground to halt last year. The Seahawks ended the year with former Detroit Lion fullback James Jones playing tailback behind John L. Williams in an all-Florida Gator backfield. Talk about a need area.

Flores would liked to have taken a quality tailback in the draft, but he wasn't impressed enough by Tony Smith or Vaughn Dunbar, so he went offensive line instead. He hopes to have solved Seattle's tailback troubles, at least temporarily, by trading a fourth rounder for Rueben Mayes, who refused to play for the Saints last year.

Mayes might not even be a short-term solution, however. This is a guy who's had a couple of knee operations and surgeries on both Achilles tendons. The Hawks aren't getting anything close to the Mayes who ran for over 2,200 yards and was named to consecutive Pro Bowls in '86-'87. Flores admitted on a Seattle sports talk show that Mayes had been slower than expected at an April workout.



▲ **Dan McGwire may quarterback the Seahawks this year.**

Chris Warren has the size (226 pounds) and quickness (4.3 speed) to make a comeback by Mayes unnecessary. He fizzled in his only start last year, gaining 13 yards on 11 carries, but will get a long look in preseason.

The Seahawks need a tailback to emerge because Williams is suited more to a role as a blocker, receiver and changeup back. Seattle has relied on Williams as its primary weapon on the ground the last three years, and he's averaged under 4 yards a carry for the first three times in his career.

Don't overestimate Williams' value as a receiver unless you're in a league with points for yards. Only one of his 134 receptions the past two years has gone for a touchdown.

Tiny receiver back Mike Oliphant (Browns) and fullback Tracy Johnson (Falcons) were signed through Plan B. Derrick Fenner (Bengals) and Derek Loville (Rams) moved on. Eighth-rounder Muhammad Shamsid-Deen becomes the second Shamsid-Deen to be drafted by a Seattle team in the '90s. Abdul was cut two years ago by the Sonics.

RECEIVER. The Seahawks' only proven receiver is a probable holdout. Brian Blades, an '89 Pro Bowler, feels he's been underpaid for years. Now that his contract's up, he'd like his $275,000 salary jacked up to

about $1 million. The negotiations could be brutal — Blades' last holdout cut his productivity almost in half.

Blades has some decent negotiating power. He caught 70 balls and went over 1,000 yards even though he played half the year with a flak jacket to protect bruised ribs. He didn't catch any TD passes in the final 15 games, however.

The Seahawks are hoping that their 1991 draft picks, Doug Thomas and David Daniels, can provide a spark to the passing game, though the duo combined for only seven receptions as rookies.

Sixth-rounder Michael Bates, like Thomas, has more experience on the track than on the football field. He hopes to compete in the Olympics in Barcelona.

The receiver you'll likely see starting opposite Blades is the slower but more reliable Tommy Kane, who's posted back-to-back 50-plus catch seasons but isn't anything special to fantasy teams.

It's no secret that Flores likes to involve the tight end in his offense. Remember Todd Christensen with the Raiders in 1983? Twelve TDs and 92 catches. The Hawks have Travis McNeal, ninth-rounder Larry Stayner and Ron Heller, who was cut last year.

The athletic McNeal caught only 36 passes in three years in Chuck Knox's offense. He's a nice pick as a backup tight end. "Talented but unproven," Flores says. Ron Heller is also available, but he was cut by the team last summer and didn't even play last year.

KICKER. The Seahawks made a solid fourth-round selection last year when they tabbed Georgia's John Kasay to replace the aging and inconsistent Norm Johnson. The left-footer set a Seahawk record for field goals, hitting 25 of 31 attempts, including 2-of-3 from beyond 50 yards.

Kasay hit almost 81 percent of his attempts his rookie year. The two most accurate kickers of all-time, Kansas City's Nick Lowery and New Orleans' Morten Andersen, both failed to reach the 80 percent accuracy mark in any of their first three seasons. In other words, it's a safe bet Kasay is going to be around for a while. He may be the most valuable player on the Seahawk roster to fantasy coaches involved in a "keeper" draft.

The Seahawks combination of an unproven offense and difficult schedule limit Kasay's appeal for this year, however. The Seahawks may be completely shut down in about half of their games, so he projects as only a backup.

DEFENSE. The Seahawks were the only AFC team not to allow a 300-yard passer or a 100-yard rusher, and they set team records for fewest points and TDs allowed. Not bad for a unit that didn't have the benefit of working with an offense that could control the clock and put opponents in poor field position.

Tackle Cortez Kennedy should make the Pro Bowl for years, the linebackers are good, and the secondary might be the best in the league. The Seahawks have two good cover guys (Dwayne Harper and Patrick Hunter) and two big hitters at safety (Eugene Robinson and Robert Blackmon). Flores traded a couple of draft picks to Minnesota for 1989 Defensive MVP Keith Millard. If his knee is okay, the Seattle defense could really make some noise.

1991 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

Passing	Att	Comp	Yards	Pct	TD	Int	'90 TD	'89 TD
Krieg	285	187	2080	65.6	11	12	15	21
Seahawks	488	290	3371	59.4	15	26	15	21
Opp.	517	296	3288	57.3	18	18	19	23
Rushing	**Att**	**Yards**	**Avg**	**Lg**	**TD**	**'90 TD**	**'89 TD**	
Williams	188	741	3.9	42	4	3	1	
Fenner	91	267	2.9	15	4	14	1	
Seahawks	394	1426	3.6	42	11	18	5	
Opp.	435	1684	3.9	32	4	7	11	
Receiving	**No**	**Yards**	**Avg**	**Lg**	**TD**	**'90 TD**	**'89 TD**	
Blades	70	1003	14.3	52	2	3	5	
Williams	61	499	8.2	35	1	0	6	
Kane	50	763	15.3	60	2	4	0	
Chadwick	22	255	11.6	29	3	4	0	
Clark	21	228	10.9	t24	2	0	1	
McNeal	17	208	12.2	36	1	0	0	
Seahawks	290	3371	11.6	60	15	15	21	
Opp.	296	3288	11.1	t61	18	19	23	
Kicking	**XP-A**	**FG-A**	**Lg**	**Pts**	**'90 Pts**	**'89 Pts**		
Kasay	27/28	25/31	54	102	-	-		
Opp.	25/25	28/32	54	109	92	101		

	at N.O. 24-27	Jets 20-13	at Den. 10-16	at K.C. 13-20	Ind. 31-3	at Cin. 13-7	Rdrs. 20-23	at Pitt. 27-7	S.D. 20-9	at S.D. 14-17	at Rdrs. 7-31	Den. 13-10	K.C. 6-19	S.F. 22-24	at Atl. 13-26	Rams 23-9
Krieg	26-35-2-274 **10,25**	broken thumb (IR)	broken thumb (IR)	broken thumb (IR)	broken thumb (IR)	broken thumb (IR)	broken thumb (IR)	25-31-0-266 **14,1**	13-21-2-142 **5**	28-38-1-376 **13,29**	18-25-0-163 **6**	9-19-2-70 **4**	16-25-1-263	16-28-0-128	22-35-2-231 **24**	13-27-2-164 **4**
Kemp	4-6-0-53	17-28-2-182 **12,15**	21-50-2-322	18-30-2-232	7-10-0-56 **7**	16-31-3-204	10-25-3-147 **11**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Williams	6-22	10-33	7-26	15-68	17-80 **6**	11-46 **35**	16-55	17-43 **1**	18-66	9-15 **13 catch**	5-27	17-109	7-20	16-66 **5**	5-16	14-43
Fenner	7-11	14-34	6-15 **1**	15-76 **1**	18-69 **10**	11-16	11-36	-	5-6 **1**	-	-	3-1	1-3	-	-	-
Chadwick	hamstring Out	-	-	-	1-7	1-29	-	5-76 **14**	1-7	3-41 **20**	-	2-12 **4**	4-53	3-19	-	2-11
Blades	12-160 **10,25**	4-53	5-107	8-97	-	7-99	4-99	3-29	2-30	8-131	3-25	-	2-24	3-29	3-35	6-85
Kane	4-40	3-45 **15**	6-122	2-58	4-35 **7**	3-40	2-18	6-102	5-53	4-75	2-32	2-24	2-45	-	3-23	2-51
Tice	-	-	-	-	-	1-8	1-6	2-7 **1**	1-5 **5**	1-9	1-6 **6**	1-9	1-16	-	-	1-4 **4**
Kasay	**37** miss: 37	**23,34** miss: 28	**28** -	**45,38** miss: 30	**41** -	**36,31** miss: 45	**36,45** -	**35,21** -	**51,54** -	- -	- -	**36,42** -	**19,26** -	**37,25,38** miss: XP,51	**43,43** miss: 34	**35** miss: XP
Others	40 int return	McNeal 12 catch			59 punt return		Clark 11 catch 32 int return							Jones 1 run	Clark 24 catch	Jones 1, 6 runs

Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Tampa Bay's Sam Wyche and San Diego's Bobby Ross may have the best chances of the nine first-year coaches to be winners right away.

• The Bucs, after playing a lot of tough teams in 1991, have the NFC's easiest schedule this year, including home games against the Colts and Rams, and home-and-aways with the Cardinals, Packers, and Vikings. That should be six wins right there.

• Tampa tossed the No 2 pick of this year's draft in the Chris Chandler fiasco, but Wyche inherits some decent talent, including some defensive studs, the makings of a good offensive line, and a trio of capable running backs.

• Perhaps most important, owner Hugh Culverhouse has opened his checkbook and given Wyche the green light to win. Acting as his own general manager, Wyche went out and signed 10 Plan B free agents, a team record.

If Wyche is able to turn Vinny Testaverde into an adequate quarterback (big if) then a 7-9 record and a third-place finish in the NFC Central is possible.

"They're not a complete team yet, but a good team with some outstanding individuals," says Bill Walsh, who gave Wyche his coaching start in the NFL. "I think Sam can really transform that into a contender almost overnight."

QUARTERBACK. Vinny Testaverde provided one of the great quotes of the year when he told *Sports Illustrated* during training camp he expected 1991 to be his breakout year. "People will probably hear this and laugh, but I want to be a Hall of Fame player," he said. "That's my dream."

Only some people are laughing, Vinny. Those who've drafted you in recent years are crying.

Testaverde's career seems to be stuck in reverse. In passing yardage, the Buccaneers have gone from 12th to 14th to 17th to 28th during Testaverde's four years as a starter. And he threw five more touchdown passes in his first year as a starter than he did last year, when he finished with just eight scoring strikes in 13 games.

The former University of Miami star graded out higher than only four of the 39 quarterbacks with 100 attempts last year, and three of those players (Jeff Kemp, Chris Chandler and Stan Gelbaugh) have been cut during the last year. Hardly Hall of Fame numbers.

Testaverde hasn't shown the heart, leadership ability or smarts to be an NFL quarterback during his first half-decade in the league. Now Wyche is asking him to run a no-huddle offense. Sounds like a less-than-ideal marriage. It should be interesting to observe Testaverde's contract negotiations next spring after his six-year $8.2 million contract expires. The draft selections of Craig Erickson (fourth round) and Mike Pawlawski (eighth) are certainly not endorsements for his future.

Wyche may be able to parlay an improving offensive line and a decent running game into some so-so numbers for Testaverde, but no fantasy coach wants to put himself in the position of relying on him to lead his club into battle on a regular basis.

Steve DeBerg was signed from Kansas City via Plan B to help guide Testaverde. After the Chiefs told him he didn't fit into their plans, he signed with the Bucs with an eye towards a coaching career.

RUNNING BACK. When you start compiling lists of players who finished 1991 with a bang, Reggie Cobb is near the top of the list. Over the last half of the season, Tampa's second-year back ran for more yards than anyone outside the league's Big Three of Emmitt Smith, Barry Sanders and Thurman Thomas.

In his final eight games, Cobb ran for 553 yards and six touchdowns and averaged 4.4 yards a carry — impressive numbers for a back playing against defenses that knew Tampa's league-worst passing attack could do only minimal damage through the air.

▲ **Vinny Testaverde had another trying season in 1991.**

Cobb started racking up his big numbers after the coaching staff benched Gary Anderson and paired Cobb with 240-pound rookie fullback Robert Wilson, a super blocker the Bucs picked up in the third round from Texas A&M.

What fantasy scouts must love about Cobb is the situation he's in. Here's a powerful runner who can hang on to the football (only three fumbles) playing for a team with an improving offensive line. He's going to score the vast majority of Tampa's rushing touchdowns and could be in line for a 1,000-yard, 10-touchdown-type year, although he still needs to be signed.

The 31-year-old Anderson, at 190 pounds, is better suited to a third-down type role at this point in his career. He's done virtually nothing in his last 26 games other than score on a spectacular 64-yard run against Chicago. Toss out that run and his average dips to a mere 2.8 yards per carry.

Alonzo Highsmith, who's had numerous knee operations, hopes to challenge Wilson for the fullback job, but it's hard to see him winning it. If he had any potential left, Houston wouldn't have let him go so cheap and Dallas wouldn't have cut him.

RECEIVER. Tampa's receiving corps got a shot in the arm from third-round rookie Lawrence Dawsey. The former Florida State All-American led his team and all rookies with 55 catches for 818 yards.

Dawsey, at 6-0 and and 195 pounds, doesn't have super speed but is

fairly elusive after the catch and relishes taking on defenders for extra yards. For his efforts, Dawsey was named Offensive Rookie of the Year by *Sports Illustrated*. Given that most wide receivers are far more productive in their second seasons, he's a player worth keeping an eye on.

Tampa Bay's other wideout, Mark Carrier, is now three years removed from his spectacular 1989 campaign, in which he caught 86 passes for 1,422 yards and nine touchdowns. Carrier doesn't scare defenses with his so-so speed; most of his catches are possession-type stuff.

Because Dawsey and Carrier lack the raw speed to really scare defenses, Wyche went out and got some speed for the No. 3 receiver spot. First, he traded for Ricky Nattiel, the former Bronco who's been hampered by injuries for years, and then he spent a second-rounder on Michigan State's Courtney Hawkins, who nearly broke Andre Rison's school receiving records.

Bruce Hill, who spent most the season on injured reserve with a knee problem, and Willie Drewrey will be pressed for playing time.

With 31 catches, Ron Hall was the most productive non-scoring tight end in the NFL last year. Every other tight end with 31 catches scored at least twice. Wyche likes to utilize the tight end, so Hall could be in for a career season. Backup Jesse Anderson is still learning the position. Blocker Ed Thomas was lost to Buffalo via Plan B.

KICKER. Wyche made his first blunder when he left Steve Christie unprotected after making a gentleman's agreement with the third-year kicker. Christie was gone within days after Buffalo offered him $2.3 million over four years.

Wyche was able to cover himself by getting Dallas' Ken Willis to break a similar verbal deal at a price of $800,000 for two years. However, the Bucs definitely took a step back. Willis' kickoffs aren't as deep as Christie's, and he ranked only 23rd in accuracy among the 30 kickers who attempted 10 or more field goals. He did hit 4-of-7 from 50-plus yards, though.

DEFENSE. Tampa Bay was the only team in the NFL that didn't score a point last year on a defensive or special teams play. And in one of the team's most curious personnel moves, the player who scored all three of the team's defensive touchdowns in 1990, Pro Bowl cornerback Wayne Haddix, was waived at midseason. A head-scratcher.

Former Viking defensive coordinator Floyd Peters, who was retained by Wyche, has a nice nucleus of players, headed by Keith McCants and Broderick Thomas. Thomas emerged in his third season at outside linebacker, netting 11 sacks and tying a team record with 175 tackles.

With its aggressive pass rush, Tampa Bay was able to cover its gaps in the secondary and finish fifth in the NFL against the pass. But Tampa Bay's lightweight defensive line, at an average of under 260 pounds, offers little resistance to teams that can run the ball. The Buccaneers finished 25th against the run and gave up 21 touchdowns on the ground. Tampa has allowed 18 or more rushing touchdowns nine straight years.

1991 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

Passing	Att	Comp	Yards	Pct	TD	Int	'90 TD	'89 TD
Testaverde	326	166	1994	50.9	8	15	17	20
Bucs	495	250	2955	50.5	13	29	18	23
Opp.	438	257	3130	58.7	15	11	22	29

Rushing	Att	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD	'90 TD	'89 TD
Cobb	196	752	3.8	t59	7	2	-
G.Anderson	72	263	3.7	t64	1	3	0
Bucs	371	1429	3.9	t64	9	7	10
Opp.	512	2107	4.1	t71	21	20	18

Receiving	No	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD	'90 TD	'89 TD
Dawsey	55	818	14.9	t65	3	-	-
Carrier	47	698	14.9	35	2	4	9
Hall	31	284	9.2	24	0	2	2
Drewrey	26	375	14.4	t87	2	1	1
G.Anderson	25	184	7.4	21	0	2	0
Wilson	20	121	6.1	15	2	-	-
Bucs	250	2955	11.8	t87	13	18	23
Opp.	257	3130	12.2	51	15	22	29

Kicking	XP-A	FG-A	Lg	Pts	'90 Pts	'89 Pts
Christie	22/22	15/20	49	67	96	-
Opp.	40/41	25/35	50	115	97	111

	at Jets 13-16	Chi. 20-21	at G.B. 13-15	Buff. 10-17	at Det. 3-31	Phil. 14-13	at N.O. 7-23	G.B. 0-27	at Minn. 13-28	Det. 30-21	at Atl. 7-43	Gnts. 14-21	at Mia. 14-33	Minn. 24-26	at Chi. 0-27	Ind. 17-3
Testaverde	12-28-1-197 65	17-29-0-161	19-30-1-278 87	3-10-0-48	7-13-1-54	5-18-1-52	hand doubtful	hand doubtful	10-22-3-124 1	12-22-0-165	6-16-2-71	16-27-2-122 19	21-39-1-224 17	23-41-0-330 1,21	back Questnble	15-31-3-168 29
Cobb	3-15	1-10	9-24	21-70 1	4-12	10-50	9-24	4-4	21-93	21-139 1,3,59	11-20	22-110 27	15-60 2	9-20 1	12-24	24-87
Anderson	7-32	10-94 64	5-13	13-29	6-2	2-6	-	9-23	7-22	6-35	1-(-5)	2-5	1-(-1)	2-6	1-2	-
Dawsey	2-84 65	3-33	-	2-29	1-6	3-50	4-62	4-54	5-87	5-61	6-84 4	1-8	8-100 17	4-85	4-36	3-39 9 run
Carrier	3-34	4-42	3-43	3-36	3-21	1-22	3-58	3-56	-	2-43	6-104	2-14	3-30	6-110 21	2-25	3-60 29
Drewrey	1-10	2-26	2-96 87	1-8	1-12	1-5	3-32	2-39	1-11	2-22	-	5-57 19	1-9 (elbow-P)	1-10	-	3-38
B.Hill	5-58	1-15 15	4-52	5-46	1-9	1-5 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hall	-	3-28	3-38	ribs Probable	8-37	2-15	-	2-17	1-8	1-12	1-12	2-24	5-54	3-39	-	-
Christie	29,38 miss: 37	31,36 miss: 49	31,22 -	19 miss: 39	32 -	- miss: 32	- -	- -	49,40 -	29,33,30 miss: 36	- -	- -	- -	40 -	- -	28 -
Others		Chandler 15 throw			Chandler started at QB	Chandler 5,15 pass Wilson 15 catch	Wilson 15 from Chandler		J.Anderson 1 catch		Carlson 4 throw			J.Anderson 1 catch	Carlson QB'd	

Washington Redskins

Contract squabbles are among the ways dynasties can get derailed before they get rolling. Four of the past seven Super Bowl champs, including Washington in 1988, failed to even make the playoffs.

Redskin owner Jack Kent Cooke will have to dig deep into his pockets this summer. Washington has a dozen players who need new contracts, and three — quarterback Mark Rypien, tackle Jim Lachey and cornerback Darrell Green — can argue for the richest contracts in the league at their positions.

And how do the Redskins sign Heisman Trophy winner Desmond Howard? As the first offensive player taken in the draft, he'll need a huge deal before he'll report — but can the 'Skins justify paying him more than two of the best wide receivers in the game, Art Monk and Gary Clark?

QUARTERBACK. Not only was Mark Rypien the highest scoring fantasy quarterback during the final 14 games of the season, he also wrote himself into the record books — perhaps permanently.

When Atlanta played Washington on Nov. 10, Falcon Coach Jerry Glanville decided to rush eight and leave his cornerbacks in man-to-man coverage against the 'Skins talented trio of wideouts. The result, on that rainy afternoon in the nation's capital, was what may have been the biggest day we'll ever see in the history of fantasy football.

The Washington quarterback threw for six touchdown passes and also trotted in on a 4-yard bootleg. Three of the TDs were from 61, 64 and 82 yards, doubling their point value. His amazing fantasy total: 42 points (Jeff George took all year to score 40).

Call it Rypien's leap into immortality. A day that will live in infamy. One giant step for fantasy kind. Unless your fantasy league dates back to 1965 when Gale Sayers scored six times against the 49ers, Rypien has probably etched himself permanently into your record book.

Rypien put the ball up 31 times for 442 yards that day, but the reason he had his best season was that he was able to throw *less*. The Redskins' power running game got rolling in 1991, and Rypien attempted fewer passes than all but two teams.

While he threw less, he enjoyed it more. With the luxury of ample time to throw because of the grinding ground attack, Rypien was able to stand in the pocket and throw long balls. He tossed an NFL-high six TD passes from beyond 50 yards.

It's seems all Rypien has to do to ensure another big year is sign on the dotted line — he needs a new contract. After being named the MVP of the Super Bowl, it's safe to say the deal will be much larger than the $1.5 million contract he signed last summer.

"The Redskins have always treated me fairly," Rypien says. "Everything will work out."

RUNNING BACK. Earnest Byner ran for over 1,000 yards a second straight year and Gerald Riggs scored 11 touchdowns, but Ricky Ervins rates as the top fantasy prospect among the Redskin running backs.

Ervins averaged an eye-popping 4.7 yards per carry and ran for 680 yards, even though he saw little playing time the first six games. The elusive rookie finally got a chance to showcase his wares in the last quarter and a half of the Cleveland game and ran for 133 yards on 13 carries.

It was a performance that changed the face of the Redskin backfield. In the first six games, Byner outgained Ervins 526-86 and scored three touchdowns. In the final 10 games, Ervins outperformed the Pro Bowler on the ground 594-522 and scored twice as many touchdowns. He followed that up with a 104-yard game in the playoffs.

On artificial turf, the differences between Ervins and Byner become even more apparent. Case in point: the Giants game, where Byner carried 10 times for 11 yards in the first half and Ervins ran 20 times for 82 yards in the second. The 'Skins, by the way, play seven road games on artificial turf this year.

▲ **Earnest Byner will likely lose playing time to Ricky Ervins.**

Byner, who enters his ninth year, will have a significant number of carries, but he won't be running for 1,000 yards again. His averaged only 3.8 yards per carry last year and was bottled up in six games.

Riggs scored more touchdowns than Ervins and Byner combined last season. Used almost exclusively in short-yardage situations, Riggs plunged for 11 scores in the regular season and added six more TDs in the playoffs. Not bad for a guy who was waived during the preseason. At 235 pounds, Riggs fits into Washington's "Jumbo" offense perfectly. But can Washington afford to pay an 11th-year vet $1.1 million to carry the ball 35 times?

There are two proven backs ahead of Riggs and the 'Skins also protected former 1,000-yard rusher John Settle, who was stashed on IR all year with a rib injury. Settle is five years younger than Riggs and carries a cheaper salary. At 210 pounds, though, the former Falcon doesn't have that Jumbo-back size that Joe Gibbs likes.

The only way we see Riggs staying with the 'Skins is if he takes a pay cut. He told a reporter during Super Bowl week that he doesn't expect to make the team. "I'm no fool, I know what happens to guys in these situations," he said. We're still rating him ahead of Byner, though, because he has the potential to score another 11 TDs.

RECEIVER. Don't spend an early round pick on Desmond Howard unless you're in a league that keeps players over years. Chances are the Heisman Trophy winner won't even be one of the top two scorers on

his own team.

Howard would be able to excel immediately if he were going to Buffalo, Denver or Cleveland, but the Redskins are already loaded with productive receivers.

Gary Clark scored 10 touchdowns last year, including five from beyond 50 yards. Clark didn't win a Heisman at James Madison — who could? — but he's been able to average 69 catches, 1,118 yards and 7.6 touchdowns a year during his seven-year career.

Washington also has future Hall-of-Famer Art Monk, who'll be showcased this year as he passes Steve Largent to become the NFL's all-time leading receiver. Monk needs 18 receptions to tie Largent. The way he's been playing, he may get that in the third game — Monk led the team with 71 catches last year.

The one receiver Howard will probably outscore is Ricky Sanders, who's coming off two disappointing seasons. Last year Sanders dropped some balls, caught only 45 passes and averaged a career-low 12.9 yards per catch.

Howard is draftable because he has the speed and moves to score some long touchdowns. At Michigan, six of his 23 TDs were from outside 40 yards and he scored in every game except the Rose Bowl. He'll also get the chance to work against nickel backs, however, since Clark and Monk get the attention of the top corners.

Tight end Terry Orr is less than a sure bet to score another four touchdowns. He's been cut three times by Washington and was left unprotected in Plan B. The Redskins signed Gary Wilkins away from Atlanta, but he's primarily a blocker and special teams standout.

KICKER. Chip Lohmiller has been the MVP of a lot of fantasy championship games lately. The Redskin placekicker has been on fire in week 16 and week 17 games the last two years, averaging four field goals per game and scoring 59 total points.

The final week last year, Lohmiller chipped in five field goals in a 24-22 loss to the Eagles. Joe Gibbs wanted those threes to be sixes, but fantasy coaches didn't mind.

The powerful Redskin offense serves Lohmiller well. He's kicked a field goal in 60 of his 69 games as a pro and is the NFL's leading scorer since being drafted in the second round in 1988.

DEFENSE. Washington's defense was also offensive last year. The Redskins returned three interceptions for touchdowns, and running back Brian Mitchell took a couple of punts back all the way.

What do the 'Skins do for an encore? It doesn't hurt getting Desmond Howard, who returned a punt and a kickoff for TDs at Michigan.

Washington's pass defense improved from below average to one of the best in the league. Helped by a rush that netted 50 sacks, the Redskins allowed only 13 scoring passes. The run defense wasn't bad either — Barry Sanders and Thurman Thomas were held to a combined 57 yards rushing in the final two games.

1991 INDIVIDUAL PLAYER STATS

Passing	Att	Comp	Yards	Pct	TD	Int	'90 TD	'89 TD
Rypien	421	249	3564	59.1	28	11	16	22
Redskins	447	261	3771	58.4	30	11	22	24
Opp.	549	292	3292	53.2	13	27	21	25

Rushing	Att	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD	'90 TD	'89 TD
Byner	274	1048	3.8	32	5	7	9
Ervins	145	680	4.7	t65	3	-	-
Riggs	78	248	3.2	32	11	6	4
Redskins	540	2049	3.8	t65	21	16	14
Opp.	348	1346	3.9	t75	11	8	9

Receiving	No	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD	'90 TD	'89 TD
Monk	71	1049	14.8	t64	8	5	8
Clark	70	1340	19.1	t82	10	8	9
Sanders	45	580	12.9	45	5	3	4
Byner	34	308	9.1	31	0	1	2
Ervins	16	181	11.3	28	1	-	-
Orr	10	201	20.1	t47	4	0	0
Redskins	261	3771	14.4	t82	30	22	24
Opp.	292	3292	11.3	t75	13	21	25

Kicking	XP-A	FG-A	Lg	Pts	'90 Pts	'89 Pts
Lohmiller	56/56	31/43	53	149	131	128
Opp.	26/26	14/18	51	68	89	80

	Det. 45-0	at Dall. 33-31	Phoe. 34-0	at Cin. 34-27	Phil. 23-0	at Chi. 20-7	Clev. 42-17	at Gnts. 17-13	Hou. 16-13	Atl. 56-17	at Pitt. 41-14	Dall. 21-24	at Rams 27-6	at Phoe. 20-14	Gnts. 34-17	at Phil. 22-24
Rypien	15-19-0-183 **4,38**	14-26-1-203 **3,37**	15-23-0-181 **28**	15-23-1-217	13-23-2-204 **19**	18-31-1-168 **26,5**	16-22-0-190 **14**	12-25-1-159 **7,54**	21-34-1-195	16-31-0-442 **4 run,9,61,** 19,19,82,64	21-28-0-325 **11,49**	17-33-1-212 **29**	15-24-1-269 **47,30,24**	22-33-0-256 **4,17**	9-19-0-230 **65,22,50**	10-27-1-130
Byner	16-83 **18 throw,5**	22-101	23-109 **2**	18-75	29-95 **7**	21-63	12-65 **21**	10-11	21-112 **23**	12-33	9-5	8-22	19-62	25-116	17-68	12-28
Riggs	11-26 **1**	4-6 **1**	11-30	10-61 **1,1,7**	9-70	2-4	7-3 **1,1**	1-3	3-0	6-29	5-8 **1,1**	2-5 **1**	2-5	1-(-1)	3-0 **1**	1-(-1)
Ervins	6-54	knee probable	4-23 (back-P)	-	1-9	-	13-133 **12,65**	20-82	9-43	16-39	23-84	5-29	6-17 **24 catch**	6-22	13-85	23-60 **1**
Clark	6-107 **38**	2-28	5-72 **28**	6-53	2-82	5-44	3-44	3-70 **7,54**	6-76	4-203 **61,19,82**	3-95 **49**	7-82	4-71	7-99	3-129 **65,50**	4-85
Monk	2-12	4-61 **37**	2-28	2-84	3-33 **19**	6-69 **26,5**	7-106 **14**	3-42	8-62	7-164 **19,54**	8-130 **11**	2-22	3-35	4-64	5-91	5-46
Sanders	3-38 **18**	5-85	0-0 **10 run**	1-19	2-16	4-38	5-38	3-33	5-46	3-29	4-67 **40**	2-47 **29**	2-45 **30**	3-48 **17**	1-13	2-18
Orr	-	1-23	-	-	1-22	-	-	-	-	2-46 **9**	-	-	1-47 **47**	1-4 **4**	2-28 **22**	2-31
Lohmiller	**26**	**53,52,45,46**	**30,48**	**40,26**	**37,35,27**	**47,23**	-	**35**	**21,20,41**	-	**36,41**	-	**35,35**	**42,27**	**36,36**	**21,47,47,38,3** **5**
	-	-	miss: 44	-	miss: 45	miss: 54	miss: 52	-	-	miss: 46	miss: 32,36	-	miss: 47,59,48	miss: 42	-	miss: 49
Others	69 punt ret Johnson 4 catch	Johnson 3 catch	55 int. ret.	66 punt ret.						15 int ret.	Rutledge 40 throw	31 int ret.				

1992 AFC/NFC

BUFFALO BILLS
1991 record: 13-3-0
Sept. 6 ---------- L.A. Rams
Sept. 13 -------- at San Francisco
Sept. 20 ---------- Indianapolis
Sept. 27 ---------- at New England
Oct. 4 ---------- Miami
Oct. 11 ---------- at L.A Raiders
Oct. 18 ---------- **Open Date**
Oct. 26 (Mon.) ------- at N.Y. Jets
Nov. 1 ---------- New England
Nov. 8 ---------- Pittsburgh
Nov. 16 (Mon.) -------- at Miami
Nov. 22 ---------- Atlanta
Nov. 29 ---------- at Indianapolis
Dec. 6 ---------- N.Y. Jets
Dec. 12 (Sat.) ---------- Denver
Dec. 20 ---------- at New Orleans
Dec. 27 ---------- at Houston

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS
1991 record: 1-15-0
Sept. 6 ---------- Cleveland
Sept. 13 ---------- Houston
Sept. 20 ---------- at Buffalo
Sept. 27 ---------- **Open Date**
Oct. 4 ---------- at Tampa Bay
Oct. 11 ---------- N.Y. Jets
Oct. 18 ---------- San Diego
Oct. 25 ---------- at Miami
Nov. 1 ---------- at San Diego
Nov. 8 ---------- Miami
Nov. 15 ---------- New England
Nov. 22 ---------- at Pittsburgh
Nov. 29 ---------- Buffalo
Dec. 6 ---------- at New England
Dec. 13 ---------- at N.Y. Jets
Dec. 20 ---------- Phoenix
Dec. 27 ---------- at Cincinnati

MIAMI DOLPHINS
1991 record: 8-8-0
Sept. 6 ---------- New England
Sept. 14 (Mon.) ----- at Cleveland
Sept. 20 ---------- L.A. Rams
Sept. 27 ---------- at Seattle
Oct. 4 ---------- at Buffalo
Oct. 11 ---------- Atlanta
Oct. 18 ---------- **Open Date**
Oct. 25 ---------- Indianapolis
Nov. 1 ---------- at N.Y. Jets
Nov. 8 ---------- at Indianapolis
Nov. 16 (Mon.) ---------- Buffalo
Nov. 22 ---------- Houston
Nov. 29 ---------- at New Orleans
Dec. 6 ---------- at San Francisco
Dec. 14 (Mon.) ----- L.A. Raiders
Dec. 20 ---------- N.Y. Jets
Dec. 27 ---------- at New England

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS
1991 record: 6-10-0
Sept. 6 ---------- at Miami
Sept. 13 ---------- at L.A. Rams
Sept. 20 ---------- Seattle
Sept. 27 ---------- Buffalo
Oct. 4 ---------- at N.Y. Jets
Oct. 11 ---------- San Francisco
Oct. 18 ---------- **Open Date**
Oct. 25 ---------- Cleveland
Nov. 1 ---------- at Buffalo
Nov. 8 ---------- New Orleans
Nov. 15 ---------- at Indianapolis
Nov. 22 ---------- N.Y. Jets
Nov. 29 ---------- at Atlanta
Dec. 6 ---------- Indianapolis
Dec. 13 ---------- at Kansas City
Dec. 20 ---------- at Cincinnati
Dec. 27 ---------- Miami

NEW YORK JETS
1991 record: 8-8-0
Sept. 6 ---------- at Atlanta
Sept. 13 ---------- at Pittsburgh
Sept. 20 ---------- San Francisco
Sept. 27 ---------- at L.A. Rams
Oct. 4 ---------- New England
Oct. 11 ---------- at Indianapolis
Oct. 18 ---------- **Open Date**
Oct. 26 (Mon.) ---------- Buffalo
Nov. 1 ---------- Miami
Nov. 8 ---------- at Denver
Nov. 15 ---------- Cincinnati
Nov. 22 ---------- at New England
Nov. 29 ---------- Kansas City
Dec. 6 ---------- at Buffalo
Dec. 13 ---------- Indianapolis
Dec. 20 ---------- at Miami
Dec. 26 (Sat.) ------ New Orleans

CINCINNATI BENGALS
1991 record: 3-13-0
Sept. 6 ---------- at Seattle
Sept. 13 ---------- L.A. Raiders
Sept. 20 ---------- at Green Bay
Sept. 27 ---------- Minnesota
Oct. 4 ---------- **Open Date**
Oct. 11 ---------- Houston
Oct. 18 (Mon.) ----- at Pittsburgh
Oct. 25 ---------- at Houston
Nov. 1 ---------- Cleveland
Nov. 8 ---------- at Chicago
Nov. 15 ---------- at N.Y. Jets
Nov. 22 ---------- Detroit
Nov. 29 ---------- Pittsburgh
Dec. 6 ---------- at Cleveland
Dec. 13 ---------- at San Diego
Dec. 20 ---------- New England
Dec. 27 ---------- Indianapolis

CLEVELAND BROWNS
1991 record: 6-10-0
Sept. 6 ---------- at Indianapolis
Sept. 14 (Mon.) ---------- Miami
Sept. 20 ---------- at L.A. Raiders
Sept. 27 ---------- at New England
Oct. 4 ---------- **Open Date**
Oct. 11 ---------- Pittsburgh
Oct. 18 ---------- Green Bay
Oct. 25 ---------- at New England
Nov. 1 ---------- at Cincinnati
Nov. 8 ---------- at Houston
Nov. 15 ---------- San Diego
Nov. 22 ---------- at Minnesota
Nov. 29 ---------- Chicago
Dec. 6 ---------- Cincinnati
Dec. 13 ---------- at Detroit
Dec. 20 ---------- Houston
Dec. 27 ---------- at Pittsburgh

HOUSTON OILERS
1991 record: 11-5-0
Sept. 6 ---------- Pittsburgh
Sept. 13 ---------- at Indianapolis
Sept. 20 ---------- Kansas City
Sept. 27 ---------- San Diego
Oct. 4 ---------- **Open Date**
Oct. 11 ---------- at Cincinnati
Oct. 18 ---------- at Denver
Oct. 25 ---------- Cincinnati
Nov. 1 ---------- at Pittsburgh
Nov. 8 ---------- Cleveland
Nov. 15 ---------- at Minnesota
Nov. 22 ---------- at Miami
Nov. 29 ---------- at Detroit
Dec. 7 (Mon.) ---------- Chicago
Dec. 13 ---------- Green Bay
Dec. 20 ---------- at Cleveland
Dec. 27 ---------- Buffalo

PITTSBURGH STEELERS
1991 record: 7-9-0
Sept. 6 ---------- at Houston
Sept. 13 ---------- N.Y. Jets
Sept. 20 ---------- at San Diego
Sept. 27 ---------- at Green Bay
Oct. 4 ---------- **Open Date**
Oct. 11 ---------- at Cleveland
Oct. 19 (Mon.) -------- Cincinnati
Oct. 25 ---------- at Kansas City
Nov. 1 ---------- Houston
Nov. 8 ---------- at Buffalo
Nov. 15 ---------- Detroit
Nov. 22 ---------- Indianapolis
Nov. 29 ---------- at Cincinnati
Dec. 6 ---------- Seattle
Dec. 13 ---------- at Chicago
Dec. 20 ---------- Minnesota
Dec. 27 ---------- Cleveland

DENVER BRONCOS
1991 record: 12-4-0
Sept. 6 ---------- L.A. Raiders
Sept. 13 ---------- San Diego
Sept. 20 ---------- at Philadelphia
Sept. 27 ---------- at Cleveland
Oct. 4 ---------- Kansas City
Oct. 12 (Mon.) --- at Washington
Oct. 18 ---------- Houston
Oct. 25 ---------- at San Diego
Nov. 1 ---------- **Open Date**
Nov. 8 ---------- N.Y. Jets
Nov. 15 ---------- N.Y. Giants
Nov. 22 ---------- at L.A. Raiders
Nov. 30 (Mon.) ---------- at Seattle
Dec. 6 ---------- Dallas
Dec. 12 (Sat.) ---------- at Buffalo
Dec. 20 ---------- Seattle
Dec. 27 ---------- at Kansas City

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS
1991 record: 10-6-0
Sept. 6 ---------- at San Diego
Sept. 13 ---------- Seattle
Sept. 20 ---------- at Houston
Sept. 28 (Mon.) ----- L.A. Raiders
Oct. 4 ---------- at Denver
Oct. 11 ---------- Philadelphia
Oct. 18 ---------- at Dallas
Oct. 25 ---------- Pittsburgh
Nov. 1 ---------- **Open Date**
Nov. 8 ---------- San Diego
Nov. 15 ---------- Washington
Nov. 22 ---------- at Seattle
Nov. 29 ---------- at N.Y. Jets
Dec. 6 ---------- at L.A. Raiders
Dec. 13 ---------- New England
Dec. 19 (Sat.) ----- at N.Y. Giants
Dec. 27 ---------- Denver

LOS ANGELES RAIDERS
1991 record: 9-7-0
Sept. 6 ---------- at Denver
Sept. 13 ---------- at Cincinnati
Sept. 20 ---------- Cleveland
Sept. 28 (Mon.) -- at Kansas City
Oct. 4 ---------- N.Y. Giants
Oct. 11 ---------- Buffalo
Oct. 18 ---------- at Seattle
Oct. 25 ---------- Dallas
Nov. 1 ---------- **Open Date**
Nov. 8 ---------- at Philadelphia
Nov. 15 ---------- Seattle
Nov. 22 ---------- Denver
Nov. 29 ---------- at San Diego
Dec. 6 ---------- Kansas City
Dec. 14 (Mon.) ---------- at Miami
Dec. 20 ---------- San Diego
Dec. 26 (Sat.) ---- at Washington

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS
1991 record: 4-12-0
Sept. 6 ---------- Kansas City
Sept. 13 ---------- at Denver
Sept. 20 ---------- Pittsburgh
Sept. 27 ---------- at Houston
Oct. 4 ---------- Seattle
Oct. 11 ---------- **Open Date**
Oct. 18 ---------- at Indianapolis
Oct. 25 ---------- Denver
Nov. 1 ---------- Indianapolis
Nov. 8 ---------- at Kansas City
Nov. 15 ---------- at Cleveland
Nov. 22 ---------- Tampa Bay
Nov. 29 ---------- L.A. Raiders
Dec. 6 ---------- at Phoenix
Dec. 13 ---------- Cincinnati
Dec. 20 ---------- at L.A. Raiders
Dec. 27 ---------- at Seattle

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS
1991 record: 7-9-0
Sept. 6 ---------- Cincinnati
Sept. 13 ---------- at Kansas City
Sept. 20 ---------- at New England
Sept. 27 ---------- Miami
Oct. 4 ---------- at San Diego
Oct. 11 ---------- at Dallas
Oct. 18 ---------- L.A. Raiders
Oct. 25 ---------- at N.Y. Giants
Nov. 1 ---------- **Open Date**
Nov. 8 ---------- Washington
Nov. 15 ---------- at L.A. Raiders
Nov. 22 ---------- Kansas City
Nov. 30 (Mon.) ---------- Denver
Dec. 6 ---------- at Pittsburgh
Dec. 13 ---------- Philadelphia
Dec. 20 ---------- at Denver
Dec. 27 ---------- San Diego

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SEASON SCHEDULE

DALLAS COWBOYS
1991 record: 11-5-0
Sept. 7 (Mon.) ------ Washington
Sept. 13 ---------- at N.Y. Giants
Sept. 20 ---------- Phoenix
Sept. 27 ---------- **Open Date**
Oct. 5 (Mon.) ----- at Philadelphia
Oct. 11 ---------- Seattle
Oct. 18 ---------- Kansas City
Oct. 25 ---------- at L.A. Raiders
Nov. 1 ---------- Philadelphia
Nov. 8 ---------- at Detroit
Nov. 15 ---------- L.A. Rams
Nov. 22 ---------- at Phoenix
Nov. 26 (Thur.) ------ N.Y. Giants
Dec. 6 ---------- at Denver
Dec. 13 ---------- at Washington
Dec. 21 (Mon.) --------- at Atlanta
Dec. 27 ---------- Chicago

NEW YORK GIANTS
1991 record: 8-8-0
Sept. 6 ---------- San Francisco
Sept. 13 ---------- Dallas
Sept. 21 (Mon.) ------- at Chicago
Sept. 27 ---------- **Open Date**
Oct. 4 ---------- at L.A. Raiders
Oct. 11 ---------- Phoenix
Oct. 18 ---------- at L.A. Rams
Oct. 25 ---------- Seattle
Nov. 1 ---------- at Washington
Nov. 8 ---------- Green Bay
Nov. 15 ---------- at Denver
Nov. 22 ---------- Philadelphia
Nov. 29 ---------- at Dallas
Dec. 6 ---------- Washington
Dec. 12 (Sat.) --------- at Phoenix
Dec. 19 (Sat.) ------- Kansas City
Dec. 27 ---------- at Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES
1991 record: 10-6-0
Sept. 6 ---------- New Orleans
Sept. 13 ---------- at Phoenix
Sept. 20 ---------- Denver
Sept. 27 ---------- **Open Date**
Oct. 5 (Mon.) ---------- Dallas
Oct. 11 ---------- at Kansas City
Oct. 18 ---------- at Washington
Oct. 25 ---------- Phoenix
Nov. 1 ---------- at Dallas
Nov. 8 ---------- L.A. Raiders
Nov. 15 ---------- at Green Bay
Nov. 22 ---------- at N.Y. Giants
Nov. 29 --------- at San Francisco
Dec. 6 ---------- Minnesota
Dec. 13 ---------- at Seattle
Dec. 20 ---------- Washington
Dec. 27 ---------- N.Y. Giants

PHOENIX CARDINALS
1991 record: 4-12-0
Sept. 6 ---------- at Tampa Bay
Sept. 13 ---------- Philadelphia
Sept. 20 ---------- at Dallas
Sept. 27 ---------- **Open Date**
Oct. 4 ---------- Washington
Oct. 11 ---------- at N.Y. Giants
Oct. 18 ---------- New Orleans
Oct. 25 ---------- at Philadelphia
Nov. 1 ---------- San Francisco
Nov. 8 ---------- at L.A. Rams
Nov. 15 ---------- at Atlanta
Nov. 22 ---------- Dallas
Nov. 29 ---------- at Washington
Dec. 6 ---------- San Diego
Dec. 12 (Sat.) -------- N.Y. Giants
Dec. 20 ---------- at Indianapolis
Dec. 27 ---------- Tampa Bay

WASHINGTON REDSKINS
1991 record: 14-2-0
Sept. 7 (Mon.) --------- at Dallas
Sept. 13 ---------- Atlanta
Sept. 20 ---------- Detroit
Sept. 27 ---------- **Open Date**
Oct. 4 ---------- at Phoenix
Oct. 12 (Mon.) ---------- Denver
Oct. 18 ---------- Philadelphia
Oct. 25 ---------- at Minnesota
Nov. 1 ---------- N.Y. Giants
Nov. 8 ---------- at Seattle
Nov. 15 ---------- at Kansas City
Nov. 23 (Mon.) -- at New Orleans
Nov. 29 ---------- Phoenix
Dec. 6 ---------- at N.Y. Giants
Dec. 13 ---------- Dallas
Dec. 20 ---------- at Philadelphia
Dec. 26 (Sat.) ------- L.A. Raiders

CHICAGO BEARS
1991 record: 11-5-0
Sept. 6 ---------- Detroit
Sept. 13 ---------- at New Orleans
Sept. 21 (Mon.) ------ N.Y. Giants
Sept. 27 ---------- Atlanta
Oct. 4 ---------- at Minnesota
Oct. 11 ---------- **Open Date**
Oct. 18 ---------- Tampa Bay
Oct. 25 ---------- at Green Bay
Nov. 2 (Mon.) --------- Minnesota
Nov. 8 ---------- Cincinnati
Nov. 15 ---------- at Tampa Bay
Nov. 22 ---------- Green Bay
Nov. 29 ---------- at Cleveland
Dec. 7 (Mon.) -------- at Houston
Dec. 13 ---------- Pittsburgh
Dec. 20 ---------- at Detroit
Dec. 27 ---------- at Dallas

DETROIT LIONS
1991 record: 12-4-0
Sept. 6 ---------- at Chicago
Sept. 13 ---------- Minnesota
Sept. 20 ---------- at Washington
Sept. 27 ---------- Tampa Bay
Oct. 4 ---------- New Orleans
Oct. 11 ---------- **Open Date**
Oct. 15 (Thur.) ----- at Minnesota
Oct. 25 ---------- at Tampa Bay
Nov. 1 ---------- Green Bay
Nov. 8 ---------- Dallas
Nov. 15 ---------- at Pittsburgh
Nov. 22 ---------- at Cincinnati
Nov. 26 (Thur.) --------- Houston
Dec. 6 ---------- at Green Bay
Dec. 13 ---------- Cleveland
Dec. 20 ---------- Chicago
Dec. 28 (Mon.) at San Francisco

GREEN BAY PACKERS
1991 record: 4-12-0
Sept. 6 ---------- Minnesota
Sept. 13 ---------- at Tampa Bay
Sept. 20 ---------- Cincinnati
Sept. 27 ---------- Pittsburgh
Oct. 4 ---------- at Atlanta
Oct. 11 ---------- **Open Date**
Oct. 18 ---------- at Cleveland
Oct. 25 ---------- Chicago
Nov. 1 ---------- at Detroit
Nov. 8 ---------- at N.Y. Giants
Nov. 15 ---------- Philadelphia
Nov. 22 ---------- at Chicago
Nov. 29 ---------- Tampa Bay
Dec. 6 ---------- Detroit
Dec. 13 ---------- at Houston
Dec. 20 ---------- L.A. Rams
Dec. 27 ---------- at Minnesota

MINNESOTA VIKINGS
1991 record: 8-8-0
Sept. 6 ---------- at Green Bay
Sept. 13 ---------- at Detroit
Sept. 20 ---------- Tampa Bay
Sept. 27 ---------- at Cincinnati
Oct. 4 ---------- Chicago
Oct. 11 ---------- **Open Date**
Oct. 15 (Thur.) ---------- Detroit
Oct. 25 ---------- Washington
Nov. 2 (Mon.) --------- at Chicago
Nov. 8 ---------- at Tampa Bay
Nov. 15 ---------- Houston
Nov. 22 ---------- Cleveland
Nov. 29 ---------- at L.A. Rams
Dec. 6 ---------- at Philadelphia
Dec. 13 ---------- San Francisco
Dec. 20 ---------- at Pittsburgh
Dec. 27 ---------- Green Bay

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS
1991 record: 3-13-0
Sept. 6 ---------- Phoenix
Sept. 13 ---------- Green Bay
Sept. 20 ---------- at Minnesota
Sept. 27 ---------- at Detroit
Oct. 4 ---------- Indianapolis
Oct. 11 ---------- **Open Date**
Oct. 18 ---------- at Chicago
Oct. 25 ---------- Detroit
Nov. 1 ---------- at New Orleans
Nov. 8 ---------- Minnesota
Nov. 15 ---------- Chicago
Nov. 22 ---------- at San Diego
Nov. 29 ---------- at Green Bay
Dec. 6 ---------- L.A. Rams
Dec. 13 ---------- Atlanta
Dec. 19 (Sat.) -- at San Francisco
Dec. 27 ---------- at Phoenix

ATLANTA FALCONS
1991 record: 10-6-0
Sept. 6 ---------- N.Y. Jets
Sept. 13 ---------- at Washington
Sept. 20 ---------- New Orleans
Sept. 27 ---------- at Chicago
Oct. 4 ---------- Green Bay
Oct. 11 ---------- at Miami
Oct. 18 ---------- at San Francisco
Oct. 25 ---------- **Open Date**
Nov. 1 ---------- L.A. Rams
Nov. 9 (Mon.) ----- San Francisco
Nov. 15 ---------- Phoenix
Nov. 22 ---------- at Buffalo
Nov. 29 ---------- New England
Dec. 3 (Thur.) --- at New Orleans
Dec. 13 ---------- at Tampa Bay
Dec. 21 (Mon.) ---------- Dallas
Dec. 27 ---------- at L.A. Rams

LOS ANGELES RAMS
1991 record: 3-13-0
Sept. 6 ---------- at Buffalo
Sept. 13 ---------- New England
Sept. 20 ---------- at Miami
Sept. 27 ---------- N.Y. Jets
Oct. 4 ---------- at San Francisco
Oct. 11 ---------- at New Orleans
Oct. 18 ---------- N.Y. Giants
Oct. 25 ---------- **Open Date**
Nov. 1 ---------- at Atlanta
Nov. 8 ---------- Phoenix
Nov. 15 ---------- at Dallas
Nov. 22 ---------- San Francisco
Nov. 29 ---------- Minnesota
Dec. 6 ---------- at Tampa Bay
Dec. 13 ---------- New Orleans
Dec. 20 ---------- at Green Bay
Dec. 27 ---------- Atlanta

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS
1991: 11-5-0
Sept. 6 ---------- at Philadelphia
Sept. 13 ---------- Chicago
Sept. 20 ---------- at Atlanta
Sept. 27 ---------- San Francisco
Oct. 4 ---------- at Detroit
Oct. 11 ---------- L.A. Rams
Oct. 18 ---------- at Phoenix
Oct. 25 ---------- **Open Date**
Nov. 1 ---------- Tampa Bay
Nov. 8 ---------- at New England
Nov. 15 --------- at San Francisco
Nov. 23 (Mon.) ----- Washington
Nov. 29 ---------- Miami
Dec. 3 (Thur.) ---------- Atlanta
Dec. 13 ---------- at L.A. Rams
Dec. 20 ---------- Buffalo
Dec. 26 (Sat.) -------- at N.Y. Jets

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS
1991 record: 10-6-0
Sept. 6 ---------- at N.Y. Giants
Sept. 13 ---------- Buffalo
Sept. 20 ---------- at N.Y. Jets
Sept. 27 ---------- at New Orleans
Oct. 4 ---------- L.A. Rams
Oct. 11 ---------- at New England
Oct. 18 ---------- Atlanta
Oct. 25 ---------- **Open Date**
Nov. 1 ---------- at Phoenix
Nov. 9 (Mon.) ---------- at Atlanta
Nov. 15 ---------- New Orleans
Nov. 22 ---------- at L.A. Rams
Nov. 29 ---------- Philadelphia
Dec. 6 ---------- Miami
Dec. 13 ---------- at Minnesota
Dec. 19 (Sat.) -------- Tampa Bay
Dec. 28 (Mon.) ---------- Detroit

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1991 QUARTERBACKS STATISTICS Ranked by TDs. Ties broken by passing yardage.

More quarterbacks statistics on page 130.

		Att	Comp	Pct	Yards	TD	Long	Int	Rating	TD runs
1.	Kelly, Jim, Buff.	474	304	64.1	3844	33	t77	17	97.6	1
2.	Rypien, Mark, Wash.	421	249	59.1	3564	28	t82	11	97.9	1
3.	Miller, Chris, Atl.	413	220	53.3	3103	26	t80	18	80.6	0
4.	Marino, Dan, Mia.	549	318	57.9	3970	25	54	13	85.8	1
5.	Moon, Warren, Hou.	655	404	61.7	4690	23	t61	21	81.7	2
6.	Kosar, Bernie, Clev.	494	307	62.1	3487	18	t71	9	87.8	0
7.	DeBerg, Steve, K.C.	434	256	59.0	2965	17	63	14	79.3	0
8.	Young, Steve, S.F.	279	180	64.5	2517	17	t97	8	101.8	4
9.	Harbaugh, Jim, Chi.	478	275	57.5	3121	15	t84	16	73.7	2
10.	Schroeder, Jay, Rdrs.	357	189	52.9	2562	15	t78	16	71.4	0
11.	Elway, John, Den.	451	242	53.7	3253	13	71	12	75.4	6
12.	Esiason, Boomer, Cin.	413	233	56.4	2883	13	53	16	72.5	0
13.	Friesz, John, S.D.	487	262	53.8	2896	12	58	15	67.1	0
14.	McMahon, Jim, Phil.	311	187	60.1	2239	12	t75	11	80.3	1
15.	Gannon, Rich, Minn.	354	211	59.6	2166	12	50	6	81.5	2
16.	Everett, Jim, Rams	490	277	56.5	3438	11	78	20	68.9	0
17.	Aikman, Troy, Dall.	363	237	65.3	2754	11	61	10	86.7	1
18.	Krieg, Dave, Sea.	285	187	65.6	2080	11	60	12	82.5	0
19.	O'Donnell, Neil, Pitt.	286	156	54.5	1963	11	t89	7	78.8	1
20.	Walsh, Steve, N.O.	255	141	55.3	1638	11	41	6	79.5	0
21.	Kramer, Erik, Det.	265	136	51.3	1635	11	t73	8	71.8	1
22.	Bono, Steve, S.F.	237	141	59.5	1617	11	78	4	88.5	0
23.	Tomczak, Mike, G.B.	238	128	53.8	1490	11	t75	9	72.6	1
24.	O'Brien, Ken, Jets	489	287	58.7	3300	10	53	11	76.6	0
25.	George, Jeff, Ind.	485	292	60.2	2910	10	t49	12	73.8	0
26.	Millen, Hugh, N.E.	409	246	60.1	3073	9	t60	18	72.5	1
27.	Kemp, Jeff, Sea.-Phil.	295	151	51.2	1753	9	57	17	55.7	0
28.	Hebert, Bobby, N.O.	248	149	60.1	1676	9	t65	8	79.0	0
29.	Brister, Bubby, Pitt.	190	103	54.2	1350	9	t65	9	72.9	0
30.	Testaverde, Vinny, T.B.	326	166	50.9	1994	8	t87	15	59.0	0
31.	Simms, Phil, Gnts.	141	82	58.2	993	8	38	4	87.0	1
32.	Tupa, Tom, Phoe.	315	165	52.4	2053	6	t62	13	62.0	1
33.	Reich, Frank, Buff.	41	27	65.9	305	6	29	2	107.2	0
34.	Hostetler, Jeff, Gnts.	285	179	62.8	2032	5	55	4	84.1	2
35.	Peete, Rodney, Det.	194	116	59.8	1339	5	t68	9	69.9	2
36.	Beuerlein, Steve, Dall.	137	68	49.6	909	5	t66	2	77.2	0
37.	Chandler, Chris, T.B.-Phoe.	154	78	50.6	846	5	t45	10	50.9	0
38.	Tolliver, Billy Joe, Atl.	82	40	48.8	531	4	t75	2	75.8	0
39.	Majkowski, Don, G.B.	226	115	50.9	1362	3	39	8	59.3	2
40.	Wilson, Wade, Minn.	122	72	59.0	825	3	t46	10	53.5	0
41.	Gelbaugh, Stan, Phoe.	118	61	51.7	674	3	t34	10	42.1	0
42.	Kiel, Blair, G.B.	50	29	58.0	361	3	35	2	83.8	0
43.	Marinovich, Todd, Rdrs.	40	23	57.5	243	3	t26	0	100.3	0
44.	Vlasic, Mark, K.C.	44	28	63.6	316	2	30	0	100.2	0
45.	Pagel, Mike, Rams	27	11	40.7	150	2	30	0	83.9	0
46.	Carlson, Jeff, T.B.	65	31	47.7	404	1	36	6	34.4	0
47.	Hodson, Tom, N.E.	68	36	52.9	345	1	32	4	47.7	0
48.	Hollas, Donald, Cin.	55	32	58.2	310	1	t23	4	49.8	0
49.	Rutledge, Jeff, Wash.	22	11	50.0	189	1	t40	0	94.7	0
50.	Willis, Peter Tom, Chi.	18	11	61.1	171	1	42	1	88.0	0
51.	Evans, Vince, Rdrs.	14	6	42.9	127	1	t80	2	59.8	0
52.	Carlson, Cody, Hou.	12	7	58.3	114	1	t68	0	118.1	0
53.	Secules, Scott, Mia.	13	8	61.5	90	1	17	1	75.8	1
54.	Taylor, Troy, Jets	10	5	50.0	76	1	51	1	69.2	0
55.	Musgrave, Bill, S.F.	5	4	80.0	33	1	t15	0	133.8	0
56.	Goebel, Brad, Phil.	56	30	53.6	367	0	26	6	27.0	0
57.	Wilhelm, Erik, Cin.	42	24	57.1	217	0	29	2	51.4	0

1991 QUARTERBACKS POINTS SCORED PER START

Assumes scoring system of 4 points per TD pass and 6 points per TD run, with 50+ yard scores doubled. Minimum of 5 starts to qualify.

Quarterback (starts)	TDs	TD runs	Pts	Total
1. Young, S.F. (10)	17	4	120	**12.00**
2. Kelly, Buff. (15)	33	1	158	**10.53**
3. Rypien, Wash. (16)	28	1	142	**8.88**
4. Miller, Atl. (14)	24	0	108	**7.71**
5. Tomczak, G.B. (7)	10	1	54	**7.71**
6. Moon, Hou. (16)	23	2	108	**6.75**
7. Bono, S.F. (6)	10	0	40	**6.67**
8. Marino, Mia. (16)	25	1	106	**6.63**
9. Elway, Den. (16)	13	6	100	**6.25**
10. Walsh, N.O. (7)	10	0	40	**5.71**
11. Kosar, Clev. (16)	18	0	88	**5.50**
12. Gannon, Minn. (11)	12	2	60	**5.45**
13. Kramer, Det. (8)	8	1	42	**5.25**
14. O'Donnell, Pitt. (8)	8	1	42	**5.25**
15. Harbaugh, Chi. (16)	15	2	80	**5.00**
16. Brister, Pitt. (8)	9	0	40	**5.00**
17. McMahon, Phil. (11)	10	1	54	**4.91**
18. Krieg, Sea. (9)	11	0	44	**4.89**
19. Hebert, N.O. (8)	9	0	44	**4.89**
20. DeBerg, K.C. (15)	16	0	72	**4.80**
21. Schroeder, Rdrs. (15)	15	0	72	**4.80**
22. Peete, Det. (8)	5	2	36	4.50
23. Aikman, Dall. (12)	11	1	50	**4.17**
24. Esiason, Cin. (14)	13	0	56	**4.00**
25. Kemp, Sea.-Phil. (7)	7	0	28	**4.00**
26. Millen, N.E. (13)	9	1	50	**3.85**
27. Tupa, Phoe. (11)	6	1	38	**3.45**
28. Testaverde, T.B. (12)	8	0	40	**3.33**
29. Friesz, S.D. (16)	12	0	48	**3.00**
30. Majkowski, G.B. (8)	3	2	24	**3.00**
31. Everett, Rams (16)	11	0	44	**2.75**
32. O'Brien, Jets (16)	10	0	44	**2.75**
33. Hostetler, Gnts. (12)	5	2	32	**2.67**
34. George, Ind. (16)	10	0	40	**2.50**
35. Wilson, Minn. (5)	3	0	12	**2.40**
36. Chandler, T.B.-Phoe. (5)	2	0	8	**1.60**

Fewer than Five Starts	TDs	TD runs	Pts	Total
1. Marinovich, Rdrs. (1)	3	0	12	**12.00**
2. Simms, Gnts. (4)	7	1	34	**8.50**
3. Reich, Buff. (1)	2	0	8	**8.00**
4. Beuerlein, Dall. (4)	4	0	24	**6.00**
5. Tolliver, Atl. (2)	2	0	12	**6.00**
6. Hollas, Cin. (1)	1	0	4	**4.00**
7. Kiel, G.B. (1)	1	0	4	**4.00**
8. Gelbaugh, Phoe. (3)	2	0	8	**2.67**

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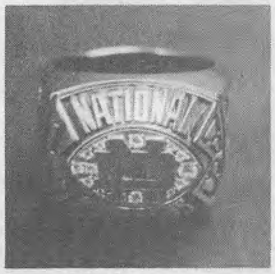

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For just $19.95 for one team or $49.95 for three teams, you receive four personalized monthly updates, trading details and access to our "Top 20" Football Challenge hotline. For multiple entries, simply take photocopies of the official entry ballot. Don't delay, all entries must be received by Friday, September 4, 1992.

$31,400.00 is guaranteed to be awarded regardless of the number of entries received.

CALLING THE PLAYS

1. Pick Your Team

Select **ONE (1)** player from each of the 11 groups listed on the entry form. Base your selection on which player you believe will lead his group in "Top 20" Football Challenge points during the 1992 regular season. Contestants with the highest point totals based on their best 14 weeks will be the grand prize winners (ie. your lowest 3 weekly point totals will not be included in your score).

2. Four Personalized Team Updates

For each entry you submit, you will receive 4 personalized team updates throughout the season. Your first update is key! It will provide you with; confirmation of your original player selections, trading details, complete contest rules and your unique security code needed for accessing the trading hotline.

3. Top 20 Scoring System

Quarterbacks

Yards Passing	-	1 point for every 3 yards
Yards Rushing	-	1 point for every yard
TD Passes Thrown	-	60 points each
TD's Scored	-	60 points each

Running Backs / Receivers

Yards Rushing	-	1 point for every yard
Yards Receiving	-	1 point for every yard
TD's Scored	-	60 points each

Place Kickers

Field Goals	-	30 points each
Converts	-	10 points each

NOTE: This is the only way for players at these positions to score points.

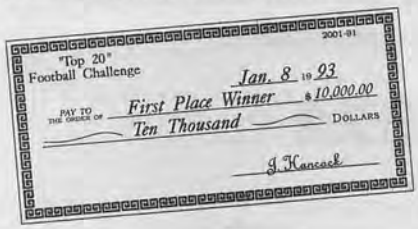
$31,400.00 IN GUARANTEED PRIZES!

4. Trading Starts September 23, 1992

During the first 3 weeks of "Top 20" Football Challenge, entries are processed and the first mailing is sent. Your first update will include your unique security code required for trading. Your first chance to alter your roster will come in week #4.

Trading Details

a. Trades can be made using a true touch tone phone.
b. Official trading period: September 23 - December 18, 1992.
c. You will be allowed to trade 4 times.
d. You can change up to 3 players during each trade.
e. A player dropped from your team can only be replaced with another player from the same Group (see Group 01 to Group 11 on entry form).
f. You will receive the points a player is credited with while he is on your roster.
g. You can re-acquire players dropped in previous trades.



DFL Publishing, publishers of Fantasy Football have verified that the $31,400.00 prize package has been deposited in trust with an Attorney at Law.

5. "Top 20" Football Challenge Hotline (NOT a 1-900 line)

Call the "Top 20" Football Challenge hotline to trade and to obtain your weekly point total and rank in the contest. The hotline will be open 7 days a week from 10:00 am to 10:00 p.m. (EST) starting September 23, 1992 and running through to January 8, 1993.

Note: Long distance charges will apply. A typical trading or inquiry call will take from 1 to 3 minutes.

SCORE BIG WITH GUARANTEED PRIZES

Cash prizes will be awarded to the "Top 20" scoring contestants at season's end.

1st	-	**$10,000.00**
2nd	-	$ 7,500.00
3rd	-	$ 5,000.00
4th	-	$ 3,000.00
5th	-	$ 1,000.00
6th-10th	-	$ 500.00
11th-20th	-	$ 100.00

WEEKLY PRIZES Starting with games played September 27, the top scoring team for the week will win $100.00.

Select ONE (1) player from each group below. Indicate your selection with an "X".
NOTE: TOTAL POINTS are based on 1991 statistics using the "TOP 20" FOOTBALL CHALLENGE scoring system.

GROUP 01 QUARTERBACKS	TEAM	GP	YARDS PASS	TD PASS	YARDS RUSH	TD'S	TOTAL POINTS
1 ☐ J. Kelly	BUF	15	3844	33	45	1	1530
2 ☐ D. Marino	MIA	16	3970	25	32	1	1511
3 ☐ C. Miller	ATL	15	3103	26	229	0	1419
4 ☐ W. Moon	HOU	16	4690	23	68	2	1781
5 ☐ M. Rypien	WAS	16	3564	28	6	1	1368

GROUP 02 QUARTERBACKS	TEAM	GP	YARDS PASS	TD PASS	YARDS RUSH	TD'S	TOTAL POINTS
1 ☐ T. Aikman	DAL	12	2754	11	5	1	995
2 ☐ J. Elway	DEN	16	3253	13	258	6	1456
3 ☐ J. Everett	LA	16	3438	11	44	0	1256
4 ☐ J. Harbaugh	CHI	16	3121	15	338	2	1480
5 ☐ B. Kosar	CLE	16	3487	18	74	0	1344

GROUP 03 RUNNING BACKS	TEAM	GP	YARDS RUSH	YARDS REC.	TD'S	TOTAL POINTS
1 ☐ N. Anderson	CHI	13	747	368	9	1169
2 ☐ R. Hampton	NYG	14	1059	283	10	1402
3 ☐ B. Sanders	DET	15	1548	307	17	1957
4 ☐ E. Smith	DAL	16	1563	258	13	1899
5 ☐ T. Thomas	BUF	15	1407	631	12	2110

GROUP 04 RUNNING BACKS	TEAM	GP	YARDS RUSH	YARDS REC.	TD'S	TOTAL POINTS
1 ☐ E. Byner	WAS	16	1048	308	5	1386
2 ☐ R. Delpino	LA	16	688	617	10	1365
3 ☐ R. Harmon	SD	16	544	555	2	1111
4 ☐ C. Okoye	KC	14	1031	34	9	1119
5 ☐ J.L. Williams	SEA	16	741	499	5	1270

GROUP 05 RUNNING BACKS	TEAM	GP	YARDS RUSH	YARDS REC.	TD'S	TOTAL POINTS
1 ☐ R. Cobb	TB	16	752	111	7	905
2 ☐ M. Hoge	PIT	16	610	379	3	1007
3 ☐ K. Mack	CLE	14	726	255	10	1041
4 ☐ L. Russell	NE	16	959	81	4	1064
5 ☐ H. Walker	MIN	15	825	204	10	1089

GROUP 06 RECEIVERS	TEAM	GP	YARDS REC.	YARDS RUSH	TD'S	TOTAL POINTS
1 ☐ G. Clark	WAS	16	1340	0	10	1400
2 ☐ M. Irvin	DAL	16	1523	0	8	1571
3 ☐ H. Jeffries	HOU	16	1181	0	7	1223
4 ☐ A. Reed	BUF	16	1113	136	10	1309
5 ☐ J. Rice	SF	16	1206	2	14	1292

GROUP 07 RECEIVERS	TEAM	GP	YARDS REC.	YARDS RUSH	TD'S	TOTAL POINTS
1 ☐ M. Clayton	MIA	16	1053	0	12	1125
2 ☐ H. Ellard	LA	16	1052	0	3	1070
3 ☐ J. Lofton	BUF	15	1072	0	8	1120
4 ☐ A. Monk	WAS	16	1049	19	8	1116
5 ☐ A. Rison	ATL	16	976	0	12	1048

GROUP 08 RECEIVERS	TEAM	GP	YARDS REC.	YARDS RUSH	TD'S	TOTAL POINTS
1 ☐ B. Blades	SEA	14	1003	17	2	1043
2 ☐ M. Duper	MIA	16	1085	0	5	1115
3 ☐ I. Fryar	NE	15	1014	11	3	1043
4 ☐ R. Moore	NYJ	16	987	0	5	1017
5 ☐ J. Taylor	SF	16	1011	0	9	1065

GROUP 09 RECEIVERS	TEAM	GP	YARDS REC.	YARDS RUSH	TD'S	TOTAL POINTS
1 ☐ C. Carter	MIN	15	962	0	5	992
2 ☐ E. Givens	HOU	16	996	30	5	1056
3 ☐ E. Jones	PHO	15	957	24	4	1005
4 ☐ S. Sharpe	GB	16	961	4	4	989
5 ☐ F. Turner	NO	16	927	0	8	975

GROUP 10 RECEIVERS	TEAM	GP	YARDS REC.	YARDS RUSH	TD'S	TOTAL POINTS
1 ☐ F. Barnett	PHI	15	948	0	4	972
2 ☐ B. Brooks	IND	16	888	0	4	912
3 ☐ W. Davis	CHI	15	945	0	6	981
4 ☐ W. Slaughter	CLE	16	906	0	3	924
5 ☐ A. Toon	NYJ	15	963	0	0	963

GROUP 11 PLACE KICKERS	TEAM	GP	FIELD GOALS	CONV.	TOTAL POINTS
1 ☐ M. Anderson	NO	16	25	38	1130
2 ☐ J. Jaeger	RAI	16	29	29	1160
3 ☐ N. Lowery	KC	16	25	35	1100
4 ☐ P. Stoyanovich	MIA	14	31	28	1210
5 ☐ K. Willis	DAL	15	27	37	1180

This contest is designed and operated by SportsMark Inc.- North America's largest sports contest operators. Since 1986 SportsMark has operated more than 150 similar sports contests for 42 major newspapers.

Entries must be received by Friday, September 4, 1992.

1 ☐ Mr.
2 ☐ Mrs.
3 ☐ Ms.

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If you have any questions call our toll-free number starting August 3, 1992.
Call 1-800-268-3888 (U.S. & Canada) weekdays from 10:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. E.S.T.
Due to publishing deadlines, the player entry form may not reflect recent player developments.

THE RULE BOOK

1. The contest is open to anyone 18 years of age or older except employees of SportsMark Inc., and members of their immediate families.
2. All entries must be received no later than September 4th, 1992.
3. "Top 20" Football Challenge is for the regular season only.
4. If a player is traded to another team, his point total will still be included. If a player is released, retired or injured, no compensation will be made.
5. If you wish to receive the four personalized team updates and your security code required for trading and inquiries, you must include payment your with entry(s).
6. Prizes must be accepted as awarded.
7. If a tie occurs in the weekly category, the prize will be awarded to the contestant with the higher overall rank in the contest.
8. If a tie occurs at seasons end, prize money will be split equally.
9. "Top 20" Football Challenge is not affiliated with the National Football League.
10. No purchase necessary. If you wish to participate, void of all services, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to FOOTBALL CHALLENGE, 2807 Barranca Parkway, Irvine, CA 92714-5114 to receive your one time selections ballot and a copy of the official contest rules. One request per person. All requests must be received by August 19th, 1992.
11. Invalid credit card numbers and uncashable checks will result in disqualification.
12. Void where prohibited by law.
13. The decision of the judges is final.

1991 QUARTERBACKS STATISTICS

Fantasy point totals award four points for TD passes and six points for TD runs. Points for 50+ yard TDs are doubled.

		TD Passes	TD Runs	Bonus Points	Total
1.	Kelly, Buff.	33	1	20	**158**
2.	Rypien, Wash.	28	1	24	**142**
3.	Young, S.F.	17	4	28	**120**
4.	Miller, Atl.	26	0	12	**116**
5.	Moon, Hou.	23	2	4	**108**
6.	Marino, Mia.	25	1	0	**106**
7.	Elway, Den.	13	6	12	**100**
8.	Kosar, Clev.	18	0	16	**88**
9.	Harbaugh, Chi.	15	2	8	**80**
10.	DeBerg, K.C.	17	0	8	**76**
11.	Schroeder, Rdrs.	15	0	12	**72**
12.	McMahon, Phil.	12	1	12	**66**
13.	Gannon, Minn.	12	2	0	**60**
14.	Tomczak, G.B.	11	1	8	**58**
15.	O'Donnell, Pitt.	11	1	8	**58**
16.	Esiason, Cin.	13	0	4	**56**
17.	Kramer, Det.	11	1	4	**54**
18.	Millen, N.E.	9	1	8	**50**
19.	Aikman, Dall.	11	1	0	**50**
20.	Friesz, S.D.	12	0	0	**48**
21.	Hebert, N.O.	9	0	8	**44**
22.	O'Brien, Jets	10	0	4	**44**
23.	Krieg, Sea.	11	0	0	**44**
24.	Everett, Rams	11	0	0	**44**
25.	Walsh, N.O.	11	0	0	**44**
26.	Bono, S.F.	11	0	0	**44**
27.	Testaverde, T.B.	8	0	8	**40**
28.	Brister, Pitt.	9	0	4	**40**
29.	George, Ind.	10	0	0	**40**
30.	Tupa, Phoe.	6	1	8	**38**
31.	Simms, Gnts.	8	1	0	**38**
32.	Peete, Det.	5	2	4	**36**
33.	Kemp, Sea.-Phil.	9	0	0	**36**
34.	Hostetler, Gnts.	5	2	0	**32**
35.	Beuerlein, Dall.	5	0	8	**28**
36.	Reich, Buff.	6	0	0	**24**
37.	Majkowski, G.B.	3	2	0	**24**
38.	Tolliver, Atl.	4	0	4	**20**
39.	Chandler, TB-Phx.	5	0	0	**20**
40.	Wilson, Minn.	3	0	0	**12**
41.	Marinovich, Rdrs	3	0	0	**12**
42.	Gelbaugh, Phoe.	3	0	0	**12**
43.	Kiel, G.B.	3	0	0	**12**
44.	Secules, Mia.	1	1	0	**10**
45.	Evans, Rdrs.	1	0	4	**8**
46.	Carlson, Hou.	1	0	4	**8**
47.	Vlasic, K.C.	2	0	0	**8**
48.	Pagel, Rams	2	0	0	**8**
49.	Hollas, Cin.	1	0	0	**4**
50.	Musgrave, S.F.	1	0	0	**4**
51.	Hodson, N.E.	1	0	0	**4**
52.	Carlson, T.B.	1	0	0	**4**
53.	Taylor, Jets	1	0	0	**4**
54.	Rutledge, Wash.	1	0	0	**4**
55.	Willis, Chi.	1	0	0	**4**
56.	Goebel, Phil.	0	0	0	**0**
57.	Cunningham, Phil.	0	0	0	**0**
58.	McGwire, Sea.	0	0	0	**0**
59.	Stouffer, Sea.	0	0	0	**0**
60.	Wilhelm, Cin.	0	0	0	**0**

Quarterback rushing statistics, ranked by touchdowns.

		Att	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
1.	Elway, John, Den.	55	255	4.6	t17	**6**
2.	Young, Steve, S.F.	66	415	6.3	21	**4**
3.	Harbaugh, Jim, Chi.	70	338	4.8	20	**2**
4.	Hostetler, Jeff, Gnts.	42	273	6.5	t47	**2**
5.	Gannon, Rich, Minn.	43	236	5.5	42	**2**
6.	Peete, Rodney, Det.	25	125	5	26	**2**
7.	Majkowski, Don, G.B.	25	108	4.3	15	**2**
8.	Moon, Warren, Hou.	33	68	2.1	12	**2**
9.	Tupa, Tom, Phoe.	28	97	3.5	17	**1**
10.	Tomczak, Mike, G.B.	17	93	5.5	48	**1**
11.	Millen, Hugh, N.E.	31	92	3	14	**1**
12.	O'Donnell, Neil, Pitt.	18	82	4.6	22	**1**
13.	McMahon, Jim, Phil.	22	55	2.5	12	**1**
14.	Kelly, Jim, Buff.	20	45	2.3	12	**1**
15.	Simms, Phil, Gnts.	9	42	4.7	19	**1**
16.	Marino, Dan, Mia.	27	32	1.2	11	**1**
17.	Secules, Scott, Mia.	4	30	7.5	12	**1**
18.	Kramer, Erik, Det.	35	26	0.7	12	**1**
19.	Rypien, Mark, Wash.	15	6	0.4	11	**1**
20.	Aikman, Troy, Dall.	16	5	0.3	9	**1**
21.	Miller, Chris, Atl.	32	229	7.2	20	**0**
22.	Kemp, Jeff, Sea.-Phil.	38	179	4.7	18	**0**
23.	Chandler, Chris, T.B.-Phx.	26	111	4.3	12	**0**
24.	Testaverde, Vinny, T.B.	32	101	3.2	19	**0**

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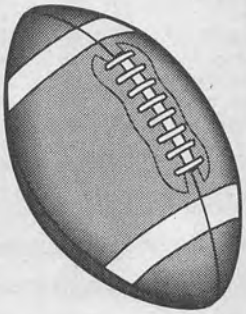

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1991 RUNNING BACKS STATISTICS Ranked by TDs. Ties Broken by rushing yardage.

		Att	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
1.	Sanders, Barry, Det.	342	1548	4.5	t69	17
2.	Smith, Emmitt, Dall.	365	1563	4.3	t75	13
3.	Thomas, Thurman, Buff.	288	1407	4.9	33	12
4.	Baxter, Brad, Jets	184	666	3.6	31	11
5.	Workman, Vince, G.B.	71	237	3.3	t30	11
6.	Riggs, Gerald, Wash.	78	248	3.2	32	11
7.	Hoard, Leroy, Clev.	37	154	4.2	52	11
8.	Pinkett, Allen, Hou.	171	720	4.2	32	10
9.	Walker, Herschel, Minn.	198	825	4.2	t71	10
10.	Hampton, Rodney, Gnts.	256	1059	4.1	44	10
11.	Mack, Kevin, Clev.	197	726	3.7	t51	10
12.	Delpino, Robert, Rams	214	688	3.2	36	10
13.	Okoye, Christian, K.C.	225	1031	4.6	48	9
14.	Anderson, Neal, Chi.	210	747	3.6	t42	9
15.	Bernstine, Rod, S.D.	159	766	4.8	t63	8
16.	Butts, Marion, S.D.	193	834	4.3	44	7
17.	Cobb, Reggie, T.B.	196	752	3.8	t59	7
18.	Muster, Brad, Chi.	90	412	4.6	24	7
19.	Sydney, Harry, S.F.	57	245	4.3	32	7
20.	Johnson, Johnny, Phoe.	196	666	3.4	21	6
21.	Rathman, Tom, S.F.	63	183	2.9	16	6
22.	Byner, Earnest, Wash.	274	1048	3.8	32	5
23.	Williams, John L., Sea.	188	741	3.9	42	5
24.	Davis, Kenneth, Buff.	129	624	4.8	t78	5
25.	Fenerty, Gill, N.O.	139	477	3.4	54	5
26.	Broussard, Steve, Atl.	99	449	4.5	36	5
27.	Heyward, Craig, N.O.	76	260	3.4	15	5
28.	Hilliard, Dalton, N.O.	79	252	3.2	t65	5
29.	Meggett, Dave, Gnts.	29	153	5.3	t30	5
30.	Thomas, Blair, Jets	189	728	3.9	25	4
31.	Green, Gaston, Den.	261	1037	4.0	t63	4
32.	Russell, Leonard, N.E.	266	959	3.6	24	4
33.	Higgs, Mark, Mia.	231	905	3.9	24	4
34.	Word, Barry, K.C.	160	684	4.3	37	4
35.	Ervins, Ricky, Wash.	145	680	4.7	t65	4
36.	Brooks, James, Cin.	152	571	3.8	25	4
37.	White, Lorenzo, Hou.	110	465	4.2	20	4
38.	Byars, Keith, Phil.	94	383	4.1	28	4
39.	Carter, Dexter, S.F.	85	379	4.5	t53	4
40.	Lewis, Greg, Den.	99	376	3.8	27	4
41.	Fenner, Derrick, Sea.	91	267	2.9	15	4
42.	Williams, Warren, Pitt.	57	262	4.6	21	4
43.	Sewell, Steve, Den.	50	211	4.2	26	4
44.	Gardner, Carwell, Buff.	42	146	3.5	18	4
45.	Woods, Ickey, Cin.	36	97	2.7	12	4
46.	Allen, Terry, Minn.	120	563	4.7	t55	3
47.	Williams, Harvey, K.C.	97	447	4.6	21	3
48.	Bell, Nick, Rdrs.	78	307	3.9	15	3
49.	Hoge, Merril, Pitt.	165	610	3.7	24	3
50.	Green, Mark, Chi.	61	217	3.6	18	3
51.	Joseph, James, Phil.	135	440	3.3	24	3
52.	Dickerson, Eric, Ind.	167	536	3.2	28	3
53.	Vaughn, Jon, N.E.	31	146	4.7	23	3
54.	Jones, James, Sea.	45	154	3.4	22	3
55.	Jordan, Buford, N.O.	47	150	3.2	25	3
56.	Allen, Marcus, Rdrs.	63	287	4.6	26	2
57.	Nelson, Darrin, Minn.	28	210	7.5	29	2
58.	Harmon, Ronnie, S.D.	89	544	6.1	33	2
59.	McNeil, Freeman, Jets	51	300	5.9	58	2
60.	Foster, Barry, Pitt.	96	488	5.1	t56	2
61.	Green, Harold, Cin.	158	731	4.6	t75	2
62.	McAfee, Fred, N.O.	109	494	4.5	34	2
63.	Smith, Steve, Rdrs.	62	265	4.3	19	2
64.	Henderson, Keith, S.F.	137	561	4.1	25	2
65.	Morris, Joe, Clev.	93	289	3.1	15	2
66.	Stephens, John, N.E.	63	163	2.6	13	2
67.	Mitchell, Brian, Wash.	3	14	4.7	8	2
68.	Taylor, Craig, Cin.	33	153	4.6	t34	2
69.	Wilson, Robert, T.B.	42	179	4.3	20	2
70.	Hendrickson, Steve, S.D.	1	3	3.0	t3	2
71.	Drummond, Robert, Phil.	12	27	2.3	7	2
72.	Tillman, Lewis, Gnts.	65	287	4.4	17	1
73.	Woodside, Keith, G.B.	84	326	3.9	29	1
74.	Anderson, Gary, T.B.	72	263	3.7	t64	1
75.	Craig, Roger, Rdrs.	162	590	3.6	15	1
76.	Gary, Cleveland, Rams	68	245	3.6	14	1
77.	Smith, Sammie, Mia.	83	297	3.6	18	1
78.	Pegram, Eric, Atl.	101	349	3.5	34	1
79.	Thompson, Darrell, G.B.	141	471	3.3	t40	1
80.	Thompson, Anthony, Phoe.	126	376	3.0	22	1

EDITOR'S NOTE: Rod Bernstine (S.D.), Earnest Byner (Wash.), Blair Thomas (Jets), Marcus Allen (Raiders) and Darrin Nelson (Minn.) each threw one touchdown pass.

1991 WIDE RECEIVERS STATISTICS Ranked by TDs. Ties Broken by receiving yardage.

		No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
1.	Rice, Jerry, S.F.	80	1206	15.1	t73	14
2.	Clayton, Mark, Mia.	70	1053	15.0	t43	12
3.	Rison, Andre, Atl.	81	976	12.0	t39	12
4.	Haynes, Michael, Atl.	50	1122	22.4	t80	11
5.	Clark, Gary, Wash.	70	1340	19.1	t82	10
6.	Reed, Andre, Buff.	81	1113	13.7	55	10
7.	Taylor, John, S.F.	64	1011	15.8	t97	9
8.	Irvin, Michael, Dall.	93	1523	16.4	t66	8
9.	Lofton, James, Buff.	57	1072	18.8	t77	8
10.	Monk, Art, Wash.	71	1049	14.8	t64	8
11.	Turner, Floyd, N.O.	64	927	14.5	t65	8
12.	Jeffires, Haywood, Hou.	100	1181	11.8	44	7
13.	Green, Willie, Det.	39	592	15.2	t73	7
14.	Davis, Wendell, Chi.	61	945	15.5	t75	6
15.	Clark, Robert, Det.	47	640	13.6	t68	6
16.	Sanders, Ricky, Wash.	45	580	12.9	45	6
17.	Brown, Tim, Rdrs.	36	554	15.4	t78	6
18.	Carter, Anthony, Minn.	51	553	10.8	t46	6
19.	Beebe, Don, Buff.	32	414	12.9	t34	6
20.	Duper, Mark, Mia.	70	1085	15.5	t43	5
21.	Givins, Ernest, Hou.	70	996	14.2	49	5
22.	Moore, Rob, Jets	70	987	14.1	53	5
23.	Carter, Cris, Minn.	72	962	13.4	50	5
24.	Hester, Jessie, Ind.	60	753	12.6	t49	5
25.	Stone, Dwight, Pitt.	32	649	20.3	t89	5
26.	Barnett, Tim, K.C.	41	564	13.8	63	5
27.	Burkett, Chris, Jets	23	327	14.2	t50	5
28.	Hill, Drew, Hou.	90	1109	12.3	t61	4
29.	Sharpe, Sterling, G.B.	69	961	13.9	t58	4
30.	Jones, Ernie, Phoe.	61	957	15.7	53	4
31.	Barnett, Fred, Phil.	62	948	15.3	t75	4
32.	Brooks, Bill, Ind.	72	888	12.3	46	4
33.	Dawsey, Lawrence, T.B.	55	818	14.9	t65	4
34.	Martin, Eric, N.O.	66	803	12.2	30	4
35.	McGee, Tim, Cin.	51	802	15.7	t52	4
36.	Duncan, Curtis, Hou.	55	588	10.7	42	4
37.	Lewis, Nate, S.D.	42	554	13.2	t49	4
38.	Baker, Stephen, Gnts.	30	525	17.5	52	4
39.	Gault, Willie, Rdrs.	20	346	17.3	t59	4
40.	Ellard, Henry, Rams	64	1052	16.4	38	3
41.	Fryar, Irving, N.E.	68	1014	14.9	t56	3
42.	Slaughter, Webster, Clev.	64	906	14.2	t62	3
43.	Ingram, Mark, Gnts.	51	824	16.2	41	3
44.	Miller, Anthony, S.D.	44	649	14.8	58	3
45.	Waddle, Tom, Chi.	55	599	10.9	t37	3
46.	Harry, Emile, K.C.	35	431	12.3	36	3
47.	Williams, Calvin, Phil.	33	326	9.9	30	3
48.	Chadwick, Jeff, Sea.	22	255	11.6	29	3
49.	Johnson, Vance, Den.	21	208	9.9	22	3
50.	Blades, Brian, Sea.	70	1003	14.3	52	2
51.	Brown, Eddie, Cin.	59	827	14.0	53	2
52.	Proehl, Ricky, Phoe.	55	766	13.9	t62	2
53.	Kane, Tommy, Sea.	50	763	15.3	60	2
54.	Carrier, Mark, T.B.	47	698	14.9	35	2
55.	Lipps, Louis, Pitt.	55	671	12.2	35	2
56.	Young, Michael, Den.	44	629	14.3	t52	2
57.	Pritchard, Mike, Atl.	50	624	12.5	29	2
58.	McMurtry, Greg, N.E.	41	614	15.0	40	2
59.	Kemp, Perry, G.B.	42	583	13.9	39	2
60.	Early, Quinn, N.O.	32	541	16.9	52	2
61.	Langhorne, Reggie, Clev.	39	505	12.9	t40	2
62.	Timpson, Michael, N.E.	25	471	18.8	t60	2
63.	Birden, J.J., K.C.	27	465	17.2	t57	2
64.	Martin, Tony, Mia.	27	434	16.1	54	2
65.	Drewrey, Willie, T.B.	26	375	14.4	t87	2
66.	Thomas, George, Atl.	28	365	13.0	37	2
67.	Wilson, Charles, G.B.	19	305	16.1	t75	2
68.	Sherrard, Mike, S.F.	24	296	12.3	31	2
69.	Nattiel, Ricky, Den.	16	288	18.0	t70	2
70.	Jackson, Michael, Clev.	17	268	15.8	t65	2
71.	Jones, Tony, Hou.	19	251	13.2	t68	2
72.	Edwards, Al, Buff.	22	228	10.4	t33	2
73.	Clark, Louis, Sea.	21	228	10.9	t24	2
74.	Morgan, Anthony, Chi.	13	211	16.2	t84	2
75.	Hill, Bruce, T.B.	17	185	10.9	18	2
76.	Jensen, Jim, Mia.	21	183	8.7	19	2
77.	Mills, Ernie, Pitt.	3	79	26.3	t35	2
78.	Fernandez, Mervyn, Rdrs.	46	694	15.1	59	1
79.	Perriman, Brett, Det.	52	668	12.8	42	1
80.	Jackson, Mark, Den.	33	603	18.3	71	1

		Att	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
81.	Anderson, Ottis, Gnts.	53	141	2.7	9	1
82.	Sanders, Thomas, Phil.	54	122	2.3	16	1
83.	Brown, Gary, Hou.	8	85	10.6	t39	1
84.	Anderson, Alfred, Minn.	26	188	7.2	19	1
85.	Manoa, Tim, Ind.	27	144	5.3	44	1
86.	Blake, Ricky, Dall.	15	80	5.3	t30	1
87.	McNair, Todd, K.C.	10	51	5.1	11	1
88.	Thompson, Ernie, Rams	2	9	4.5	9	1
89.	Chaffey, Pat, Atl.	29	127	4.4	27	1
90.	Dingle, Mike, Cin.	21	91	4.3	21	1
91.	Dupree, Marcus, Rams	49	179	3.7	24	1
92.	McCallum, Napoleon, Rdrs.	31	110	3.5	9	1
93.	Craver, Aaron, Mia.	20	68	3.4	t7	1
94.	Johnston, Daryl, Dall.	17	54	3.2	10	1
95.	Bailey, Johnny, Chi.	15	43	2.9	11	1
96.	Paige, Tony, Mia.	10	25	2.5	6	1
97.	Agee, Tommie, Dall.	9	20	2.2	8	1
98.	Ball, Eric, Cin.	10	21	2.1	10	1
99.	Brown, A.B., Jets	3	4	1.3	2	1
100.	Warren, Chris, Sea.	11	13	1.2	7	1
101	Jones, Bill, K.C.	0	0	0.0	0	1
102.	Hector, Johnny, Jets	62	345	5.6	47	0
103	Rozier, Mike, Atl.	96	361	3.8	19	0
104.	Clark, Ken, Ind.	114	366	3.2	25	0
105	Sherman, Heath, Phil.	106	279	2.6	12	0
106.	Stradford, Troy, K.C.	1	7	7.0	7	0
107	Flagler, Terrence, Phoe.	1	7	7.0	7	0
108.	Bieniemy, Eric, S.D.	3	17	5.7	15	0
109	Dozier, D.J., Det.	9	48	5.3	29	0
110.	Worley, Tim, Pitt.	22	117	5.3	16	0
111	Samuels, Chris, S.D.	2	10	5.0	6	0
112.	Rouson, Lee, Clev.	3	14	4.7	11	0
113	Fenney, Rick, Minn.	23	99	4.3	17	0
114.	Johnson, Anthony, Ind.	22	94	4.3	15	0
115.	Overton, Don, Det.	14	59	4.2	9	0
116.	Highsmith, Alonzo, T.B.	5	21	4.2	10	0
117	Allen, Marvin, N.E.	13	50	3.8	11	0
118.	Jones, Keith, Atl.	35	126	3.6	14	0
119	Metcalf, Eric, Clev.	30	107	3.6	15	0
120.	Wilson, Marcus, Rdrs.	6	21	3.5	8	0

		No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
81.	Anderson, Willie, Rams	32	530	16.6	54	1
82.	Thomas, Robb, K.C.	43	495	11.5	39	1
83.	Hill, Randal, Phoe.	43	495	11.5	t31	1
84.	Farr, Mike, Det.	42	431	10.3	t34	1
85.	Jones, Hassan, Minn.	32	384	12.0	43	1
86.	Mathis, Terance, Jets	28	329	11.8	39	1
87.	Harper, Alvin, Dall.	20	326	16.3	39	1
88.	Brennan, Brian, Clev.	31	325	10.5	30	1
89.	Russell, Derek, Den.	21	317	15.1	40	1
90.	Barber, Mike, Cin.	23	255	11.1	t42	1
91.	Calloway, Chris, Pitt.	15	254	16.9	t33	1
92.	Verdin, Clarence, Ind.	21	214	10.2	28	1
93.	Graddy, Sam, Rdrs.	6	195	32.5	t80	1
94.	Carroll, Wesley, N.O.	18	184	10.2	t31	1
95.	Dixon, Floyd, Atl.	12	146	12.2	23	1
96.	Coleman, Pat, Hou.	11	138	12.5	26	1
97.	Jefferson, Shawn, S.D.	12	125	10.4	29	1
98.	Banks, Fred, Mia.	9	117	13.0	25	1
99.	Rembert, Reggie, Cin.	9	117	13.0	t23	1
100.	James, Lynn, Cin.	7	103	14.7	22	1
101	Turner, Vernon, Rams	3	41	13.7	t19	1
102.	Tasker, Steve, Buff.	2	39	19.5	t20	1
103	Toon, Al, Jets	74	963	13.0	32	0
104.	Green, Roy, Phil.	29	364	12.6	42	0
105	Turner, Odessa, Gnts.	21	356	17.0	55	0
106.	Martin, Kelvin, Dall.	16	243	15.2	27	0
107	Taylor, Kitrick, S.D.	24	218	9.1	27	0
108.	Gentry, Dennis, Chi.	16	149	9.3	18	0
109	Morris, Ron, Chi.	8	147	18.4	33	0
110.	Moore, Herman, Det.	11	135	12.3	21	0
111	Paige, Stephone, K.C.	9	111	12.3	26	0
112.	Jackson, John, Phoe.	8	108	13.5	30	0
113	Harris, Leonard, Hou.	8	101	12.6	29	0
114.	Skansi, Paul, Sea.	9	96	10.7	21	0
115	Query, Jeff, G.B.	7	94	13.4	26	0
116.	Jones, Fred, K.C.	8	85	10.6	23	0
117	Martin, Sammy, Ind.	5	79	15.8	25	0
118.	Miller, Scott, Mia.	4	49	12.3	15	0
119	Carpenter, Rob, N.E.	3	45	15.0	23	0
120.	Daniels, David, Sea.	4	38	9.5	19	0

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1991 DEFENSIVE STATISTICS Ranked by points scored.

		Blocked Kick Returns	Kick Returns	Fumble Returns	Interception Returns	Total TDs	Safeties	Total Points	1990 Points	1989 Points
1.	Atlanta		1	4	1	6	3	42	50	12
2.	Dallas	1	2	1	2	6	1	38	14	24
3.	Houston	1		3	2	6	0	36	14	14
4.	Cleveland			1	3	5	1	32	24	42
5.	Detroit		1	2	2	5	1	32	18	12
6.	Washington		2		3	5	0	30	22	26
7.	Philadelphia			3	1	4	0	24	24	32
8.	Pittsburgh	1		1	2	4	0	24	14	12
9.	Buffalo		1	1	1	3	0	18	30	12
10.	Denver			1	2	3	0	18	18	26
11.	N.Y. Jets	1			2	3	0	18	14	36
12.	Phoenix			2	1	3	0	18	12	14
13.	New Orleans	1			2	3	0	18	8	28
14.	Seattle		1		2	3	0	18	6	12
15.	Cincinnati		1		1	2	1	14	28	18
16.	Kansas City			2		2	1	14	26	20
17.	L.A. Raiders		1	1		2	1	14	18	32
18.	Green Bay		1	1		2	1	14	18	2
19.	L.A. Rams			1	1	2	1	14	12	18
20.	San Francisco		1	1		2	1	14	2	12
21.	Minnesota				2	2	0	12	28	46
22.	San Diego		1		1	2	0	12	26	18
23.	Miami			1		1	0	6	32	18
24.	N.Y. Giants		1			1	0	6	24	28
25.	Chicago				1	1	0	6	18	12
26.	Indianapolis		1			1	0	6	12	24
27.	New England	1				1	0	6	6	6
28.	Tampa Bay					0	0	0	18	22

1991 NFL PLAYOFF GAME SUMMARIES

First Round Playoff Games

Chiefs 10, Raiders 6

Los Angeles	0	3	3	0—6
Kansas City	0	7	0	3—10

KC—F.Jones 11 pass from DeBerg (Lowery kick)
LA—FG Jaeger 32.
LA—FG Jaeger 26.
KC—FG Lowery 18.
INDIVIDUAL LEADERS
Rushing—Los Angeles, Bell 20-107, Allen 7-39, Smith 3-6. Kansas City, Word 33-130, Okoye 1-2, DeBerg 3-(-5).
Passing—Los Angeles, Marinovich 12-23-4-140. Kansas City, DeBerg 9-14-1-89.
Receiving—Los Angeles, Brown 4-45, Horton 3-59, Fernandez 2-12, Gault 1-11, Smith 1-9, Allen 1-4. Kansas City, Thomas 3-18, B.Jones 2-25, F.Jones 2-20, Birden 1-18, Word 1-8.
Missed Field Goals—Kansas City, Lowery 33,47.

Oilers 17, Jets 10

New York	0	10	0	0—10
Houston	7	7	0	3—17

Hou—Givins 5 pass from Moon (Del Greco kick).
NY—Toon 10 pass from O'Brien (Allegre kick).
Hou—Givins 20 pass from Moon (Del Greco kick).
NY—FG Allegre 33.
Hou—FG Del Greco 53.
INDIVIDUAL LEADERS
Rushing—New York, Hector 12-46, Baxter 5-14, O'Brien 2-10, McNeil 4-1. Houston, White 17-65, Moon 3-6.
Passing—New York, O'Brien 21-31-3-221. Houston, Moon 28-40-1-271.
Receiving—New York, Toon 8-96, Moore 4-70, McNeil 4-23, Boyer 3-20, Mathis 2-12. Houston, Hill 9-77, Givins 6-83, Jeffires 4-49, White 4-31, Duncan 4-24, Harris 1-7.
Missed Field Goals—Houston, Del Greco 46.

Falcons 27, Saints 20

Atlanta	0	10	7	10—27
New Orleans	7	6	0	7—20

NO—Turner 26 pass from Hebert (Andersen kick).
NO—FG Andersen 45.
Atl—Rison 24 pass from Miller (Johnson kick).
Atl—FG Johnson 45.
NO—FG Andersen 35.
Atl—Haynes 20 pass from Miller (Johnson kick).
NO—Hilliard 1 run (Andersen kick).
Atl—FG Johnson 36.
Atl—Haynes 61 pass from Miller (Johnson kick).
INDIVIDUAL LEADERS
Rushing—Atlanta, Rozier 7-35, Pegram 11-26, Miller 4-18. New Orleans, McAfee 14-49, Hebert 1-9, Hilliard 4-5, Jordan 3-2.
Passing—Atlanta, Miller 18-30-1-291. New Orleans, Hebert 26-44-2-273.
Receiving—Atlanta, Haynes 6-144, Pritchard 5-63, Rison 4-56, Thomas 1-19, Pegram 1-5, Dixon 1-4. New Orleans, Martin 7-83, Turner 5-75, Early 5-41, Hilliard 5-33, Carroll 2-23, Tice 1-13, Jordan 1-5.
Missed Field Goals—none.

Cowboys 17, Bears 13

Dallas	10	0	7	0—17
Chicago	0	3	3	7—13

Dall—FG Willis 27.
Dall—Smith 1 run (Willis kick).
Chi—FG Butler 19.
Chi—FG Butler 43.
Dall—Novacek 3 pass from Beuerlein (Willis kick).
Chi—Waddle 6 pass from Harbaugh (Butler kick).
INDIVIDUAL LEADERS
Rushing—Dallas, Smith 26-105, Beuerlein 4-3. Chicago, Lewis 9-65, Anderson 13-34, Harbaugh 7-26, Muster 5-25.
Passing—Dallas, Beuerlein 9-18-0-180. Chicago, Harbaugh 22-44-2-218, Buford 1-1-0-15.
Receiving—Dallas, Irvin 4-83, Harper 3-88, Johnston 1-6, Novacek 1-3. Chicago, Waddle 9-104, Davis 7-79, Anderson 3-5, Lewis 2-18, Rivera 1-15, Thornton 1-12.
Missed Field Goals—Dallas, Willis 38, 47.

Second Round Playoff Games

Bills 37, Chiefs 14

Kansas City	0	0	7	7—14
Buffalo	7	10	7	13—37

Buff—Reed 25 pass from Kelly (Norwood kick).
Buff—Reed 53 pass from Kelly (Norwood kick).
Buff—FG Norwood 33.
Buff—Lofton 10 pass from Kelly (Norwood kick).
KC—Word 3 run (Lowery kick).
Buff—FG Norwood 20.
Buff—FG Norwood 47.
Buff—Davis 5 run (Norwood kick).
KC—F.Jones 20 pass from Vlasic (Lowery kick).
INDIVIDUAL LEADERS
Rushing—Kansas City, Word 15-50, Williams 8-24, McNair 1-3. Buffalo, Thomas 22-100, Davis 19-75, Reed 1-6, Kelly 1-2, Reich 3-(-3).
Passing—Kansas City, DeBerg 5-9-0-22, Vlasic 9-20-4-124. Buffalo, Kelly 23-35-3-273, Reich 0-0-0-0.
Receiving—Kansas City, McNair 5-52, F.Jones 3-31, Birden 2-19, Hayes 1-21, Barnett 1-20, B.Jones 1-2, Thomas 1-1. Buffalo, Beebe 6-77, McKeller 5-34, Reed 4-100, Thomas 4-21, Lofton 3-34, Edwards 1-7.
Missed Field Goals—none.

Broncos 26, Oilers 24

Houston	14	7	0	3—24
Denver	6	7	3	10—26

Hou—Jeffires 15 pass from Moon (Del Greco kick).
Hou—Hill 9 pass from Moon (Del Greco kick).
Den—V.Johnson 10 pass from Elway (kick failed).
Hou—Duncan 6 pass from Moon (Del Greco kick).
Den—Lewis 1 run (Treadwell kick).
Den—FG Treadwell 49.
Hou—FG Del Greco 25.
Den—Lewis 1 run (Treadwell kick).
Den—FG Treadwell 28.
INDIVIDUAL LEADERS
Rushing—Houston, White 17-79, Moon 2-18. Denver, Green 17-59, Sewell 4-48, Elway 6-39, Rivers 1-3, Lewis 3-2.
Passing—Houston, Moon 27-36-1-325. Denver, Elway 19-33-1-257.
Receiving—Houston, Jeffires 7-99, Givins 6-111, Duncan 6-40, White 5-35, Hill 2-21, T.Jones 1-19. Denver, V.Johnson 5-78, Young 4-85, Sewell 3-28, Sharpe 3-20, Nattiel 2-27, Russell 1-20, Kay 1-8, Green 1-1.
Missed Field Goals—Houston, Del Greco 33.

Redskins 24, Falcons 7

Atlanta	0	7	0	0—7
Washington	0	14	3	7—24

Wash—Ervins 17 run (Lohmiller kick).
Wash—Riggs 2 run (Lohmiller kick).
Atl—T.Johnson 1 run (N.Johnson kick).
Wash—FG Lohmiller 24.
Wash—Riggs 1 run (Lohmiller kick).
INDIVIDUAL LEADERS
Rushing—Atlanta, T.Johnson 8-33, Chaffey 3-8, Pegram 3-2. Washington, Ervins 23-104, Byner 14-57, Riggs 4-7, Monk 1-(-2), Rypien 3-(-4).
Passing—Atlanta, Miller 17-32-4-178. Washington, Rypien 14-29-1-170.
Receiving—Atlanta, Rison 7-62, Pritchard 5-56, Dixon 2-19, Thomas 1-15, Haynes 1-15, Phillips 1-11. Washington, Clark 6-64, Monk 3-45, Ervins 3-24, Sanders 1-26, Byner 1-11.
Missed Field Goals—Atlanta, N.Johnson 45. Washington, Lohmiller 47,37,44.

Lions 38, Cowboys 6

Dallas	3	3	0	0—6
Detroit	7	10	14	7—38

Det—Green 31 pass from Kramer (Murray kick).
Dall—FG Willis 28.
Det—Jenkins 41 interception return (Murray kick).
Dall—FG Willis 28.
Det—FG Murray 36.
Det—Green 9 pass from Kramer (Murray kick).
Det—Moore 7 pass from Kramer (Murray kick).
Det—Sanders 47 run (Murray kick).
INDIVIDUAL LEADERS
Rushing—Dallas, Smith 15-80, Agee 3-12, Johnston 1-3, Beuerlein 1-2, Aikman 2-0. Detroit, Sanders 12-69, Overton 3-17, Ware 1-(-2).
Passing—Dallas, Beuerlein 7-13-1-91, Aikman 11-16-1-114. Detroit, Kramer 29-38-0-341, Ware 0-0-0-0.
Receiving—Dallas, Irvin 5-84, Harper 4-56, Novacek 4-55, Wright 1-7, Johnston 1-3, Awalt 1-2, Smith 1-2, Agee 1-(-4). Detroit, Green 8-115, Moore 6-87, Farr 5-62, Sanders 5-30, Perriman 3-18, Clark 2-29.
Missed Field Goals—none.

Conference Championships

Bills 10, Broncos 7

Denver	0	0	0	7—7
Buffalo	0	0	7	3—10

Buff—Bailey 11 interception return (Norwood kick).
Buff—FG Norwood 44.
Den—Kubiak 3 run (Treadwell kick).
INDIVIDUAL LEADERS
Rushing—Denver, Green 19-53, Kubiak 3-22, Elway 4-10, Sewell 4-3, V.Johnson 2-(-7). Buffalo, Thomas 26-72, Reed 1-16, Kelly 2-9, Davis 6-7.
Passing—Denver, Elway 11-21-1-121, Kubiak 11-12-0-136. Buffalo, Kelly 13-25-2-117.
Receiving—Denver, V.Johnson 8-104, Sewell 7-78, Sharpe 3-40, Young 3-25, Nattiel 1-10. Buffalo, McKeller 3-39, Thomas 3-15, Reed 2-19, Davis 2-13, Metzelaars 1-14, Lofton 1-11, Beebe 1-6.
Missed Field Goals—Denver, Treadwell 47,42,37.

Redskins 41, Lions 10

Detroit	0	10	0	0—10
Washington	10	7	10	14—41

Wash—Riggs 2 run (Lohmiller kick).
Wash—FG Lohmiller 20.
Det—Green 18 pass from Kramer (Murray kick).
Wash—Riggs 3 run (Lohmiller kick).
Det—FG Murray 30.
Wash—FG Lohmiller 28.
Wash—Clark 45 pass from Rypien (Lohmiller kick).
Wash—Monk 21 pass from Rypien (Lohmiller kick).
Wash—Green 32 interception return (Lohmiller kick).
INDIVIDUAL LEADERS
Rushing—Detroit, Sanders 11-44, Ware 2-25, Kramer 4-4, Long 1-(-1). Washington, Byner 17-62, Ervins 13-53, Riggs 2-5, Rutledge 3-(-3).
Passing—Detroit, Kramer 21-33-1-249, Ware 4-9-1-15, Long 0-0-0-0. Washington, Rypien 12-17-0-228, Rutledge 0-0-0-0.
Receiving—Detroit, Farr 6-73, Perriman 5-43, Moore 4-69, Green 4-54, Sanders 4-15, Overton 2-10. Washington, Monk 5-94, Clark 4-77, Sanders 2-12, Orr 1-45.
Missed Field Goals—Detroit, Murray 44. Washington, Lohmiller 51.

Super Bowl XXVI

Redskins 37, Bills 24

Washington	0	17	14	6—37
Buffalo	0	0	10	14—24

Wash—FG Lohmiller 34.
Wash—Byner 10 pass from Rypien (Lohmiller kick).
Wash—Riggs 1 run (Lohmiller kick).
Wash—Riggs 2 run (Lohmiller kick).
Buff—FG Norwood 21.
Buff—Thomas 1 run (Norwood kick).
Wash—Clark 30 pass from Rypien (Lohmiller kick).
Wash—FG Lohmiller 25.
Wash—FG Lohmiller 39.
Buff—Metzelaars 2 pass from Kelly (Norwood kick).
Buff—Beebe 4 pass from Kelly (Norwood kick).
INDIVIDUAL LEADERS
Rushing—Washington, Ervins 13-72, Byner 14-49, Riggs 5-7, Sanders 1-1, Rutledge 1-0, Rypien 6-(-4). Buffalo, Davis 4-17, Kelly 3-16, Thomas 10-13, Lofton 1-(-3).
Passing—Washington, Rypien 18-33-1-292. Buffalo, Kelly 28-58-4-275.
Receiving—Washington, Clark 7-114, Monk 7-113, Byner 3-24, Sanders 1-41. Buffalo, Lofton 7-92, Reed 5-34, Beebe 4-61, Davis 4-38, Thomas 4-27, McKeller 2-29, Edwards 1-11, Metzelaars 1-2, Kelly 1-(-8).
Missed Field Goals—none.

1991 DEFENSIVE TAKEAWAYS

		Int	Fum	Total	Sacks
1.	Philadelphia	26	22	**48**	55
2.	New Orleans	29	19	**48**	50
3.	Washington	27	14	**41**	50
4.	Seattle	18	21	**39**	36
5.	Houston	20	18	**38**	45
6.	Phoenix	17	21	**38**	25
7.	N.Y. Jets	18	19	**37**	35
8.	Buffalo	23	14	**37**	31
9.	Detroit	19	17	**36**	30
10.	Atlanta	19	16	**35**	29
11.	Denver	23	10	**33**	52
12.	Kansas City	15	18	**33**	39
13.	Cleveland	15	18	**33**	35
14.	Raiders	18	13	**31**	42
15.	New England	12	19	**31**	25
16.	Cincinnati	17	14	**31**	21
17.	Chicago	17	13	**30**	40
18.	Pittsburgh	19	11	**30**	38
19.	Green Bay	15	14	**29**	45
20.	Minnesota	17	11	**28**	33
21.	San Francisco	12	16	**28**	31
22.	Indianapolis	15	13	**28**	29
23.	San Diego	19	9	**28**	28
24.	Tampa Bay	11	16	**27**	39
25.	Dallas	12	11	**23**	23
26.	Miami	12	9	**21**	35
27.	N.Y. Giants	12	9	**21**	34
28.	L.A. Rams	11	8	**19**	17

1992 STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE

Ranked in descending order. Easist schedules are at top; most difficult at bottom.

		Wins	Losses	Pct.
1.	Indianapolis	112	144	.438
1.	San Diego	112	144	.438
3.	Houston	115	141	.449
4.	Tampa Bay	117	139	.457
4.	Cleveland	117	139	.457
6.	Pittsburgh	118	138	.461
6.	Cincinnati	118	138	.461
8.	Buffalo	119	137	.465
9.	New England	120	136	.469
10.	Chicago	121	135	.473
11.	N.Y. Jets	122	134	.477
12.	Miami	123	133	.480
13.	Minnesota	124	132	.484
14.	Detroit	125	131	.488
15.	Green Bay	126	130	.492
16.	San Francisco	128	128	.500
17.	Atlanta	130	126	.508
18.	Phoenix	131	125	.512
19.	New Orleans	135	121	.527
19.	L.A. Rams	135	121	.527
21.	Seattle	137	119	.535
22.	Kansas City	139	117	.543
22.	L.A. Raiders	139	117	.543
24.	Denver	141	115	.551
25.	N.Y. Giants	144	112	.563
26.	Washington	145	111	.566
26.	Philadelphia	145	111	.566
28.	Dallas	146	110	.570

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1991 KICKER STATISTICS

		XP-XPA	1-29 Yards	30-39 Yards	40-49 Yards	50 or Longer	Totals	Total Points
1.	Lohmiller, Chip, Wash.	56-56	9-9	10-12	10-17	2-5	31-43	149
2.	Stoyanovich, Pete, Mia.	28-29	10-10	11-12	7-10	3-5	31-37	121
3.	Willis, Ken, Dall.	37-37	8-8	9-11	6-13	4-7	27-39	118
4.	Jaeger, Jeff, Rdrs.	29-30	10-10	10-13	7-7	2-4	29-34	116
5.	Andersen, Morten, N.O.	38-38	6-6	11-13	6-9	2-4	25-32	113
6.	Treadwell, David, Den.	31-32	15-15	9-12	3-9	0-0	27-36	112
7.	Ruzek, Roger, Phil.	27-29	10-10	9-10	8-10	1-3	28-33	111
8.	Lowery, Nick, K.C.	35-35	13-13	8-8	4-7	0-2	25-30	110
9.	Norwood, Scott, Buff.	56-58	8-9	3-7	5-9	2-4	18-29	110
10.	Leahy, Pat, Jets	30-30	16-19	9-11	1-5	0-2	26-37	108
11.	Kasay, John, Sea.	27-29	6-7	11-14	6-7	2-3	25-31	102
12.	Anderson, Gary, Pitt.	31-31	8-10	9-11	5-6	1-6	23-33	100
13.	Murray, Eddie, Det.	40-40	4-5	8-10	5-9	2-4	19-28	97
14.	Breech, Jim, Cin.	27-27	9-10	8-10	5-6	1-3	23-29	96
15.	Johnson, Norm, Atl.	38-39	9-9	4-4	5-8	1-2	19-23	95
16.	Cofer, Mike, S.F.	49-50	5-5	3-10	4-10	2-3	14-28	91
17.	Bahr, Matt, Gnts.	24-25	6-6	6-8	9-12	1-3	22-29	90
18.	Butler, Kevin, Chi.	32-34	10-12	3-5	5-9	1-3	19-29	89
19.	Carney, John, S.D.	31-31	7-7	6-8	4-10	2-4	19-29	88
20.	Jacke, Chris, G.B.	31-31	9-9	4-5	4-9	1-1	18-24	85
21.	Reveiz, Fuad, Minn.	34-36	9-9	3-3	3-7	2-5	17-24	85
22.	Davis, Greg, Phoe.	19-19	6-6	7-7	5-10	3-7	21-30	82
23.	Stover, Mike, Clev.	33-34	3-5	8-9	3-6	2-2	16-22	81
24.	Zendejas, Tony, Rams	25-26	4-4	8-8	3-3	2-2	17-17	76
25.	Christie, Steve, T.B.	22-22	5-5	7-11	3-4	0-0	15-20	67
26.	Howfield, Ian, Hou.	25-29	8-8	4-6	1-2	0-2	13-18	64
27.	Biasucci, Dean, Ind.	14-14	6-6	3-4	5-13	1-3	15-26	59
28.	Staurovsky, Jason, N.E.	10-11	3-4	9-12	1-3	0-0	13-19	49
29.	Del Greco, Al, Hou.	16-16	5-6	2-3	2-3	1-1	10-13	46
30.	Baumann, Char.,Mia-NE	15-16	3-3	1-3	5-5	0-1	9-12	42
31.	Allegre, Raul, Gnts.-Jets	7-7	2-2	2-2	1-2	0-0	5-6	22
32.	Daluiso, Brad, Atl.-Buff.	2-2	2-3	0-0	0-0	0-0	2-3	8
33.	Aguiar, Louie, Jets	0-0	1-2	0-0	0-0	0-0	1-2	3
34.	Johnson, Lee, Cin.	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	1-3	1-3	3

1991 TIGHT END STATISTICS

		No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
1.	Green, Eric, Pitt.	41	582	14.2	49	6
2.	Horton, Ethan, Rdrs.	53	650	12.3	52	5
3.	Jackson, Keith, Phil.	48	569	11.9	t73	5
4.	Novacek, Jay, Dall.	59	664	11.3	49	4
5.	Orr, Terry, Wash.	10	201	20.1	t47	4
6.	Tice, Mike, Sea.	10	70	7.0	16	4
7.	Cook, Marv, N.E.	82	808	9.9	49	3
8.	McKeller, Keith, Buff.	44	434	9.9	t29	3
9.	McEwen, Craig, S.D.	37	399	10.8	30	3
10.	Harris, Jackie, G.B.	24	264	11.0	35	3
11.	West, Ed, G.B.	15	151	10.1	21	3
12.	Glover, Andrew, Rdrs.	5	45	9.0	18	3
13.	Jordan, Steve, Minn.	57	638	11.2	25	2
14.	Holman, Rodney, Cin.	31	445	14.4	39	2
15.	Price, Jim, Rams	35	410	11.7	27	2
16.	Cross, Howard, Gnts.	20	283	14.2	30	2
17.	Johnson, Damone, Rams	32	253	7.9	27	2
18.	Hayes, Jonathon, K.C.	19	208	10.9	23	2
19.	Cooper, Adrian, Pitt.	11	147	13.4	t47	2
20.	Edmunds, Ferrell, Mia.	11	118	10.7	22	2
21.	Holohan, Pete, K.C.	13	113	8.7	26	2
22.	Anderson, Jesse, T.B.	6	73	12.2	34	2
23.	Johnson, Maurice, Phil.	6	70	11.7	t31	2
24.	Carter, Pat, Rams	8	69	8.6	t18	2
25.	Metzelaars, Pete, Buff.	5	54	10.8	t51	2
26.	Rolle, Butch, Buff.	3	10	3.3	5	2
27.	Jones, Mike, Minn.	2	8	4.0	t5	2
28.	Johnson, Jimmie, Wash.	3	7	2.3	t4	2
29.	Sharpe, Shannon, Den.	22	322	14.6	37	1
30.	Thornton, James, Chi.	17	278	16.4	33	1
31.	Baty, Greg, Mia.	20	269	13.5	30	1
32.	Williams, Jamie, S.F.	22	235	10.7	21	1
33.	McNeal, Travis, Sea.	17	208	12.2	36	1
34.	Robert, Alfredo, Dall.	16	136	8.5	21	1
35.	Coates, Ben, N.E.	10	95	9.5	17	1
36.	Cash, Keith, Pitt.	9	90	10.0	20	1
37.	Mowatt, Zeke, Gnts.	5	78	15.6	33	1
38.	Johnson, Reggie, Den.	6	73	12.2	31	1
39.	Matich, Trevor, Jets (OT)	3	23	7.7	14	1
40.	Wilkins, Gary, Atl.	3	22	7.3	12	1
41.	Williams, Willie, Phoe. (OT)	1	3	3.0	t3	1
42.	Jones, Brent, S.F.	27	417	15.4	41	0
43.	Galbraith, Scott, Clev.	27	328	12.1	42	0
44.	Hall, Ron, T.B.	31	284	9.2	24	0
45.	Tice, John, N.O.	22	230	10.5	22	0

1992 NFL ROOKIE CLASS

Quarterbacks	Round	Overall	College
David Klingler, Cin.	1	6	Houston
Tommy Maddox, Den.	1	25	UCLA
Matt Blundin, K.C.	2	40	Virginia
Tony Sacca, Phoe.	2	46	Penn St.
Craig Erickson, T.B.	4	86	Miami (Fla.)
Casey Weldon, Phil.	4	102	Florida St.
Will Furrer, Chi.	4	107	Virginia Tech
Chris Hakel, Wash.	4	112	Wm. & Mary
Jeff Blake, Jets	6	166	East Carolina
Ricky Jones, Rams	8	198	Alabama St.
Kent Graham, Gnts.	8	211	Ohio State
Bucky Richardson, Hou.	8	220	Texas A&M
Mike Pawlawski, T.B.	8	222	California
Brad Johnson, Minn.	9	227	Florida St.
T.J. Rubley, Rams	9	228	Tulsa
Ty Detmer, G.B.	9	230	Brigham Young
Darian Hagan, S.F.	9	242	Colorado
Mark Barsotti, Mia.	11	296	Fresno St.
Keithen McCant, Clev.	12	316	Nebraska
Cornelius Benton, Pitt.	12	318	Connecticut
Matt Rodgers, Buff.	12	335	Iowa

Kickers	Round	Overall	College
Jason Hanson, Det.	2	56	Washington St.
Klaus Wilmsmeyer, T.B.	12	311	Louisville
Carlos Huerta, S.D.	12	315	Miami (Fla.)
Joe Wood, Hou.	12	332	Air Force

Tight Ends	Round	Overall	College
Derek Brown, Gnts.	1	14	Notre Dame
Johnny Mitchell, Jets	1	15	Nebraska
Aaron Pierce, Gnts.	3	69	Washington
Tyji Armstrong, N.O.	3	79	Mississippi
Thomas McLemore, Det.	3	81	Southern
Craig Thompson, Cin.	5	115	N. Carolina A&T
Todd Harrison, Chi.	5	134	N.C. State
Fallon Wacasey, Dall.	6	149	Tulsa
Mark Chmura, G.B.	6	157	Boston College
Nate Turner, Buff.	6	167	Nebraska

Running Backs	Round	Overall	College
Tommy Vardell, Clev.	1	9	Stanford
Tony Smith, Atl.	1	19	S. Mississippi
Vaughn Dunbar, N.O.	1	21	Indiana
Amp Lee, S.F.	2	45	Florida St.
Siran Stacy, Phil.	2	48	Alabama
Kevin Turner, N.E.	3	71	Alabama
Corey Harris, Hou.	3	77	Vanderbilt
Rodney Culver, Ind.	4	85	Notre Dame
Tony Brooks, Phil.	4	92	Notre Dame
Edgar Bennett, G.B.	4	103	Florida St.
Maury Toy, Ind.	5	113	UCLA
Dexter McNabb, G.B.	5	119	Florida
Joe Campbell, Rams	6	144	Midd. Tenn. St.
Mike Gaddis, Minn.	6	152	Oklahoma
Kevin Smith, Rdrs.	7	185	UCLA
Scottie Graham, Pitt.	7	188	Ohio State
Anthony McDowell, T.B.	8	200	Texas Tech
Scott Lockwood, N.E.	8	204	Southern Cal
Sam Gash, N.E.	8	205	Penn State
Muhammad Shamsid-Deen, Sea.	8	207	Tenn.-Chatt.
Ronald Humphrey, Ind.	8	212	Miss. Valley St.
Derrick Moore, Atl.	8	216	N.E. Oklahoma
Ostell Miles, Cin.	9	226	Houston
Tim Lester, Rams	10	255	Ea. Kentucky
Reggie Yarbrough, Phoe.	10	259	Cal St. Fullerton
Mike Saunders, Pitt.	10	262	Iowa
Raoul Spears, Mia.	10	267	Southern Cal
Nikki Fisher, Chi.	10	273	Virginia
Mazio Royster, T.B.	11	284	Southern Cal
Keith McAfee, S.D.	11	285	Texas A&M
Charles Evans, Minn.	11	295	Clark Atlanta
Ed Tillison, Det.	11	306	NW Missouri St.
Kameno Bell, Mia.	12	328	Illinois

EDITOR'S NOTE: Quarterback Bucky Richardson (Hou.) projected as a safety; Quarterback Darian Hagan (S.F.) projected at receiver/kick returner; running back Corey Harris (Hou.) projected at receiver.

Wide Receivers	Round	Overall	College
Desmond Howard, Wash.	1	4	Michigan
Carl Pickens, Cin.	2	31	Tennessee
Jimmy Smith, Dall.	2	36	Jackson St.
Courtney Hawkins, T.B.	2	44	Michigan St.
Patrick Rowe, Clev.	2	52	San Diego St.
Todd Kinchen, Rams	3	60	Louisiana St.
Robert Brooks, G.B.	3	62	S. Carolina
Ray Ethridge, S.D.	3	63	Pasadena City
Charles Davenport, Pitt.	4	94	N. Carolina St.
Orlando McKay, G.B.	5	130	Washington
Torrance Small, N.O.	5	138	Alcorn St.
Shoun Habersham, Ind.	6	141	Tenn.-Chat.
Rico Smith, Clev.	6	143	Colorado
Michael Bates, Sea.	6	151	Arizona
Tony Smith, K.C.	6	159	Notre Dame
Jeff Snyder, Phil.	6	160	Hawaii
Mario Bailey, Hou.	6	162	Washington
Wayne Hawkins, N.E.	7	176	S.W. Minn.
Elbert Turner, Hou.	7	189	Illinois
Chris Holder, G.B.	7	190	Tuskegee
John Brown, Chi.	7	192	Houston
Jon Bostick, Den.	7	193	Nebraska
Eric Blount, Phoe.	8	202	North Carolina
Vincent Brownlee, Jets	8	219	Mississippi
Eddie Miller, Ind.	9	225	S. Carolina
Johnnie Barnes, S.D.	9	231	Hampton
Ronnie West, Minn.	9	237	Pittsburgh
Tyrone Williams, Phoe.	9	239	Western Ontario
Chris Walsh, Buff.	9	251	Stanford
Dion Johnson, Hou.	10	274	S. Carolina
Marcus Dowdell, N.O.	10	276	Tenn. St.
Barry Rose, Buff.	10	279	Wisc.-Stevens
Brian Thomas, Rams	11	282	Southern
Augustin Olobia, Clev.	11	289	Washington St.
Nate Singleton, Gnts.	11	292	Grambling
Eric Boles, Jets	11	293	Central Wash.
Lee Miles, Mia.	11	294	Baylor
Tim Daniel, Dall.	11	302	Florida A&M

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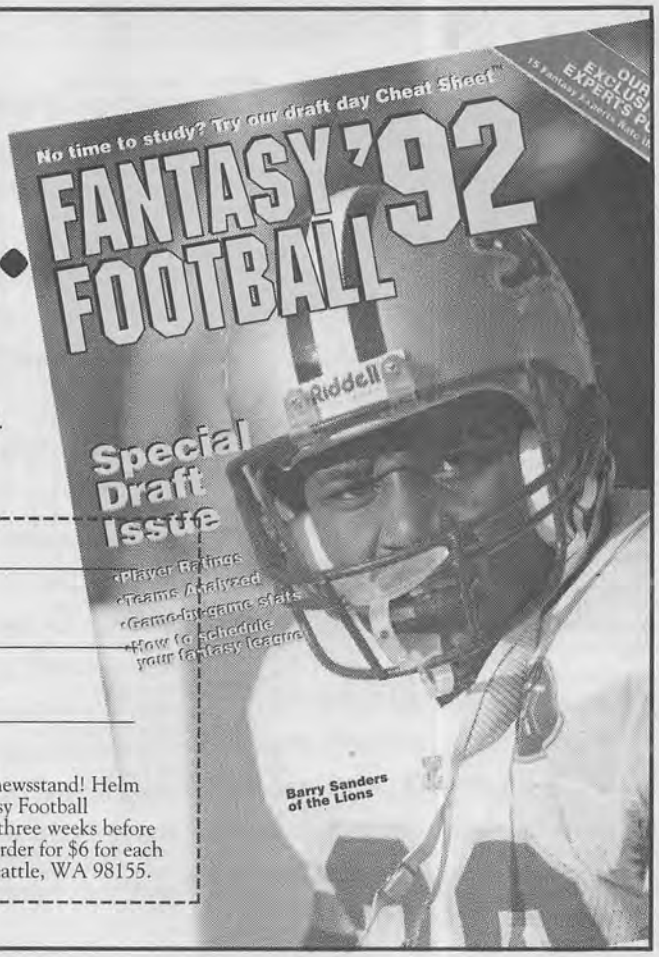

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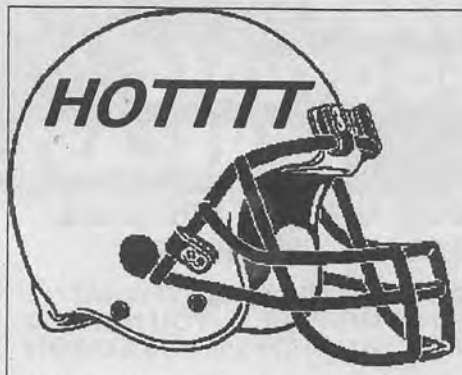

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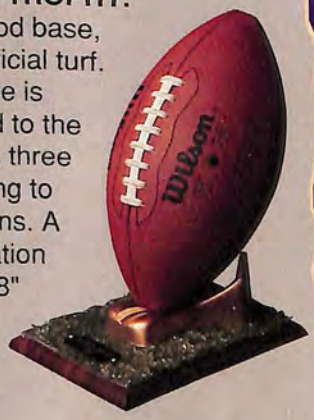

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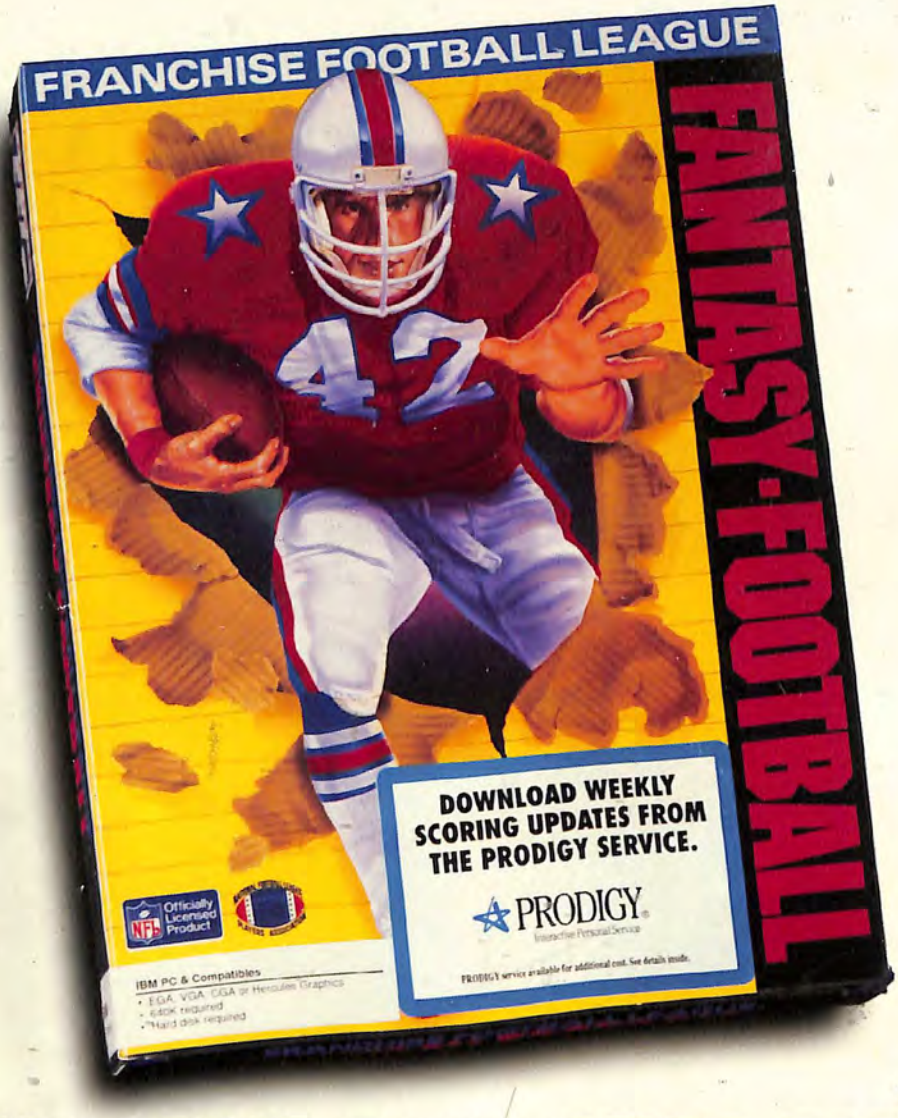

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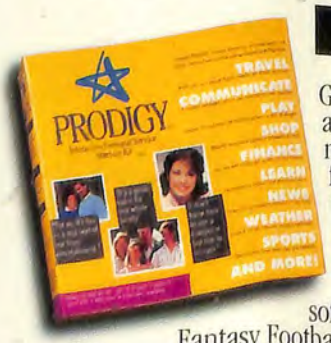

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